





Sketch

Female God stirs up devil of a row



Martin Wainwright

GOD was in her antique shop yesterday and all was well with the world... though Melanie Harris was running pretty close to the deadline with repairs to a pair of Biblical trousers.

make any jokes at God's expense, just because she's a woman," said Dave Parkinson, scooting up to Lucifer's dressing room.

'Other EU states may act in as bloody minded a way as the British'

Stephen Bates and John Palmer in Luxembourg and Michael White



Douglas Hogg, second from left, takes in news updates with his aides before entering yesterday's meetings

PHOTOGRAPH: JEAN-CLAUDE ERNST

Breakthrough in sight over beef ban

INTENSIVE lobbying, with the backing of the European Commission, was last night beginning to break the logjam over lifting the ban on British beef by-products at a meeting of agriculture ministers in Luxembourg.

Each country's vote is based on approximate population, ranging from 10 for Britain, France, Germany and Italy, down to 2 for Luxembourg, with 62 out of 97 required for a majority.

Agreement on a phased removal of the overall ban hangs on the outcome of a whistlestop tour of EU capitals by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, starting today.

our presidency when we have to tell the British... what is realistic from a European perspective," the Irish farm minister, Ivan Yates, said.

a criminal offence to hold feedstuffs made from animal protein. The report, seen by ministers in Luxembourg as a confession of the failure of past British controls on BSE, said: "Controls in the UK to date have had less impact than intended, because of incomplete compliance."

sceptics' offensive and widen Britain's quarrel, with a fresh attack this week on the European Court of Justice and a claim that the economic policies of the EU's political elite have "deliberately" increased unemployment.

He gets his sight back," said Melanie's colleague, Carol Williams, who runs the cramped, top-floor muddle of dress patterns, spools of thread and Satan's lovely, furry wings.

First night

Legend stands up under spotlight

Bob Flynn

John Prine Old Fruitmarket, Glasgow

THEY came on like something out of Reservoir Dogs. Four guys in black suits, thin ties, ready for serious work. Three young faces fronted by one that looked like it had seen every truckstop in America.

in the country arena, filled with biting satire and always with a steely eye on the collapsing heartland of the American experience.

Envoy flies into Cyprus flare-up

Mass protests expected today after Turks kills Greek soldier

Chris Drake in Nicosia

BRITISH peacekeeping troops in Cyprus are on full alert today after Turkish troops shot dead a Greek Cypriot soldier yesterday.

The UN fears hundreds of Greek Cypriot schoolchildren will abandon classes and gather at the main crossing point to the island's northern sector to protest at the shooting.

people with loaded guns facing each other across the middle of a capital city.

were fired at Panayi by another Turkish soldier. There were disputed accounts of whether Panayi was armed at the time.

Turkish attack



Cyprus chronology

- July 20, 1974: Turkey invaded Cyprus, eventually occupying northern part of island. 200,000 Greek Cypriots fled to live in the south.

'I see it all the time, I smell the dead and dying. It took me years to convince myself I did everything I could'



Hillsborough: 'Part of me died that day' PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BAXON

continued from page 1

worry about." In January 1990 he was discharged from the police for psychiatric reasons.

cause I feel I always have to be prepared for disaster. If a plane crashed out there now," he points out of the window into his mother's garden decked with blossom, "I'd know exactly what to do."

Big guns put squeeze on Blair to stick with old voting system

Patrick Wintour

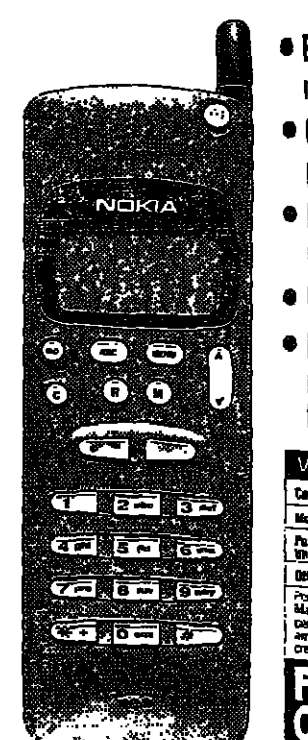
GERALD Kaufman and Roy Hattersley, two of Labour's most senior politicians, are to join forces tomorrow to launch a campaign to stop Tony Blair leading Labour away from its traditional support for the first past the post electoral system.

rumours that Mr Blair now privately backs a more proportional system, called the alternative vote.

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Handwritten note: "The Guardian"

England squad closes ranks behind collective responsibility as FA refuses to name names over in-flight celebrations that got out of hand

# Gascoigne affair: They're all guilty

Martin Thorpe

**T**HE England soccer squad walked into another storm yesterday when it closed ranks and agreed to take collective responsibility for the damage inflicted on a Cathay Pacific aeroplane during last month's flight back from two Euro 96 warm-up games in Asia.

The decision not to name those guilty of causing £5,000 damage to two television screens and a table during a drinking bout to celebrate Paul Gascoigne's 29th birthday followed a private investigation by the England coach, Terry Venables, on Sunday evening and yesterday morning.

It brought instant criticism from police and politicians. Chief Supt Brian Mackenzie, president of the Police Superintendents' Association of England and Wales, said: "It seems incongruous that there's some kind of collective responsibility being apportioned here particularly as, in a sense, those not involved may be tarred with the same brush."

The Tory MP David Wilshire called it a "splendid cover-up" while Menzies Campbell MP, the Liberal Democrat spokesman on sport, said it was an "unsatisfactory outcome to an incident which has done nothing for English football. Discipline should have been swift and specific."

Labour MP Tony Banks said: "Why has this taken so long? Either they are all guilty, in which case it's even worse, or this is a cover-up."

Venables wanted the matter sorted out yesterday without any individuals being exposed to public pillory, so the squad could get on with preparations for their first game against Switzerland next Saturday.

Venables said in a statement that "financial penalties will be imposed", though on whom was unclear. One element of uncertainty was cleared up last night when Cathay Pacific said "a full and final settlement for damage to on-board equipment" had been reached with the Football Association.

A spokesman for the airline said it was "in the region of £5,000". Agreement had been reached "between solicitors in the last two minutes" and payment would be by the FA.

Venables reported to the FA's chief executive, Graham Kelly, and the chairman of its international committee, Noel White, yesterday. There had been calls for the culprits to be dropped from the squad, but this was never a serious option so close to the tournament.

To add to the confusion about who was guilty and who was not, Venables warned that three players originally accused in sections of the media of causing the damage were "seeking legal advice on compensation for the harm to their reputations. They were very angry that they had taken the blame publicly — and without justification they believe — for the reported damage to the aeroplane."



**Lost Canova cupid statue found under moss and paint layers**



The cleaned-up cupid, above, and, top left, before restoration, after which it proved to be the work of Antonio Canova, bottom left. MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEASER

## £1 m windfall at the bottom of the garden

**Dan Gislister Arts Correspondent**  
**I**F YOU have a paint-covered, moss-strewn statue at the bottom of the garden, brush off the dirt, strip away the paint and have it valued. This is the lesson to be learnt from a sale announced yesterday of a statue found in a West Country garden in 1992.

In a twist that would bring a flush to the cheeks of Hugh Scully, presenter of BBC1's Antiques Roadshow, the statue turned out to be a lost work by Antonio Canova, the neo-classical sculptor most famous for the Three Graces statue, the subject of a prolonged tussle to prevent it leaving this country.

It is not known how much was paid for the new find when it was discovered, but it is expected to sell for at least £1 million when Sotheby's auction it in London on July 4. The identity of the seller is unknown, as is the identity of the unfortunate previous owner.

The marble statue, just over 4 ft high, is a life-size representation of an amorino or cupid, one of four similar works by the artist. The other three are in Poland, Cambridge and St Petersburg.

"The current seller purchased it without knowing what it was," said Conrad Webb, of Sotheby's, yesterday. "Fortunately, the white paint that was covering it has protected the original surface." The only parts of the statue that show deterioration, are those not covered by paint.

It is very rare for a single Canova figure to come up for sale. A marble bust by the artist was sold last year for £385,000. Another Canova bust, estimated to be worth £695,000, is currently the subject of a similar battle to the Three Graces. The tussle over the Three Graces came to an end in 1994 with donations from two benefactors, John Paul Getty II and the Baron Thyssen-Bornemisza. The donations allowed Britain to match the £7.6 million paid by the Californian Getty museum in 1989.

The cupid, the whereabouts of which have been unknown since the last century, was previously believed to have been in North Wales. It was commissioned in 1791 by John David Latouche. "He was the son of an Irish banker, which is presumably why he had the money," said Mr Webb. "As a 17-year-old he was in Rome, doing the grand tours. He went to Canova's studio, saw other versions of the same work, and tried to buy it. But even though Canova had not yet been paid for them, he refused to sell."

Undeterred, Latouche commissioned his own. "Latouche's one became Canova's finely refined ideal for the figure," said Mr Webb. "It is a rare opportunity for a collector or an institution." Art historian Hugh Honour described the cupid as a "pivotal work" in an essay published in 1994.

Mr Scully was unavailable for comment.



## House prices 'set to rise 5pc'

Larry Elliott and Cliff Jones

**G**OVERNMENT hopes of a recovery in its political fortunes are boosted today by the news that the Halifax Building Society, Britain's biggest mortgage lender, is revising its prediction of house price growth in 1996 from 2 per cent to 5 per cent.

Reporting the tenth successive monthly increase in the cost of a home, the Halifax says prices rose by 1 per cent in May as low interest rates, falling unemployment and the impact of Budget tax cuts helped underpin demand in the spring buying season.

Ministers believe the seven-year slump in the housing market is a key factor behind the Government's low standing in the opinion polls, and that the recent upward trend is a sign that consumer confidence is coming back.

Although fresh figures yesterday showed that manufacturing industry is being badly affected by Europe's recession, spending in the high street has been picking up since mortgage rates were first cut last autumn.

However, the recent strength of the pound has calmed City fears of higher inflation, and dealers expect no change in base rates when the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, and the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, meet to discuss interest rates tomorrow.

The Halifax, which has been cautious about upgrading its forecast after a series of false dawns, said its change of heart was based on the fact that prices were now 4.6 per cent higher than they were a year ago. Last year, the Halifax predicted that house prices would rise by 3 per cent but, in the event prices fell by 1.7 per cent.

The society's revised prediction brings it in line with stockbrokers UBS, whose housing analysts said last month that prices in 1996 would rise by 5 per cent.

Gary Marsh, assistant general manager of corporate affairs for the Halifax, warned that it was unlikely prices would rise by as much as 1 per cent in months to come, adding that the market was "still perceived to be fragile in terms of the number of transactions". But he said the society now expected the recovery to continue, prompting it to boost its forecast for the year as a whole.

May's rise was slightly higher than the 0.9 per cent increase in April and helped lift the average house price to £84,679.

## No beef between diplomats as Germans share British embassy

John Mullin and Ian Black

**S**OMEBODY should have told the baroness, Lynda Chalker was busy justifying why Britain should block European legislation designed to help the Third World, and here was her own department cuddling up to the Germans.

The Overseas Development Minister's boss knew about it, of course. For all his tough rhetoric, Malcolm Rifkind, Foreign Secretary, even nipped over to give the scheme his blessing.

The British and Germans might be at each other's throats in the conference rooms of the European Community but in Reykjavik, Iceland, they are embarking on the first in a series of joint ventures — sharing an embassy.

This is the age of cost-cutting, and although the two diplomatic staffs will have separate offices, they will share an interview room, a conference chamber, and, more controversially, a canteen. British beef is apparently unavailable.

The British have drawn the short straw on space, with the Germans occupying two floors to Britain's one. Jane Wills, head of the British mission, explained: "The Germans are a bigger embassy. It's just one of those things. We have been affected by cuts, though we've been about this size for four years."

One floor up, Hartmut Weineck, administrative officer at the German embassy, showed what it takes to be a diplomat. "We hope it will be a happy arrangement. We do know about the beef crisis but except for this minor thing, co-operation between Great Britain and Germany is perfect. We do not mention beef here. It is not something we talk about, or joke about."

Sharing embassies is called co-location, a post-Cold War trend that extends to the Kazakhstan capital Almaty, the hardship post to end all hardship posts, where the German, British and French missions have all been brought under one roof. In Minsk, Belarus, the British and Italians share an embassy.

In Quito, Ecuador, there is to be a joint German-British chancellery; in Abuja, the new capital of Nigeria, 13 EU states are planning to set up a European chancellery. This may make life complicated if they disagree, as seems likely, over sanctions against the military regime. Or even beef.



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# Ofwat hands out £40m 'fine' to water firm

Chris Barrie and Martin Wainwright

**YORKSHIRE** Water, the company synonymous with water shortages and public relations disasters, was "fined" £40 million by the industry watchdog yesterday and warned it faced tough scrutiny.

Having almost cut supplies last summer, Yorkshire was found guilty of "serious failures" in its control of leaks and sewer flooding after a lengthy inquiry by Ian Byatt, director general of water services (Ofwat).

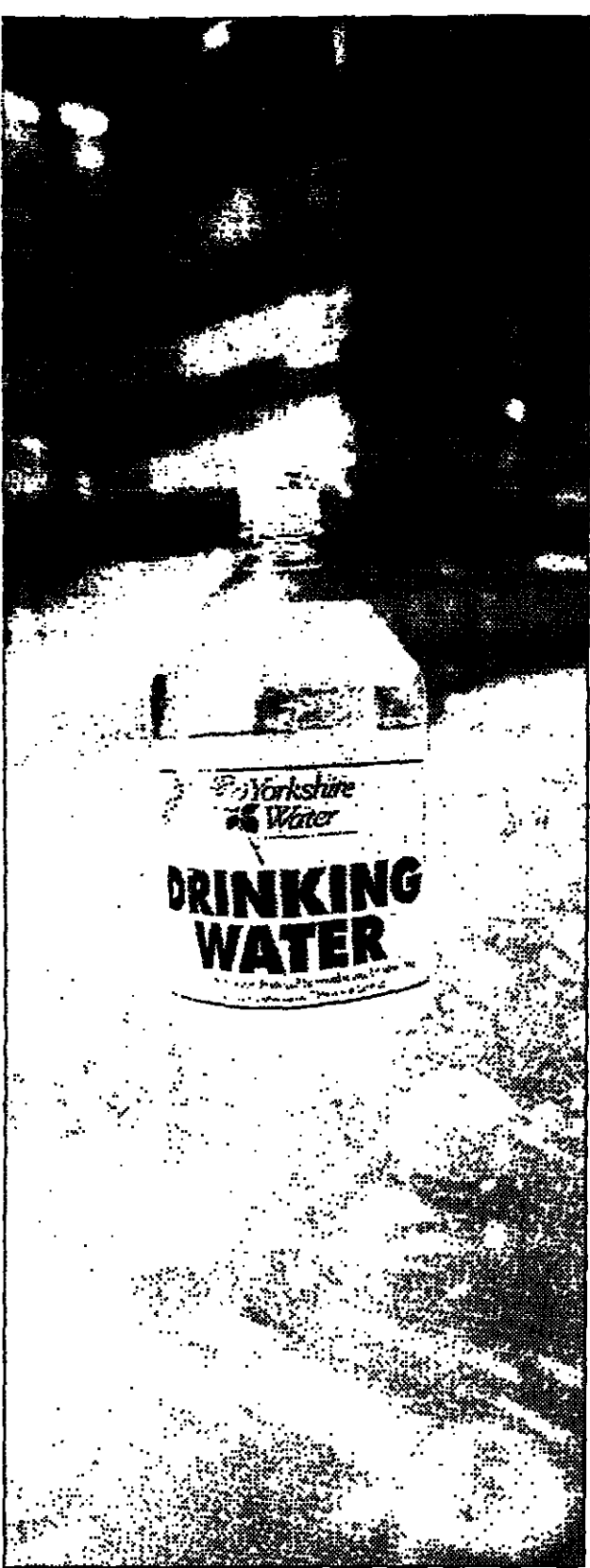
He penalised Yorkshire by restricting it to price rises of no more than inflation in 1997-98. Before Mr Byatt's ruling, Yorkshire had been permitted a 2.5 per cent increase. Households will pay £5 less next year as a result. Price rises for the following two years will be lower than expected, saving households £18 in all over three years.

Mr Byatt said the company had been allowed price increases specifically to enable it to meet its supply obligations and to deliver adequate services. But Yorkshire had "failed to do so in some important areas".

His ruling will cut Yorkshire's revenues by £40 million. It also faces bills of £47 million for tanking water by road to drought-affected areas, and of £65 million for extra spending to put right the company's poor record on maintaining supplies and cutting leaks.

Mr Byatt also demanded the core water business be financially ring-fenced so he can scrutinise profits and spending more easily. The director general criticised Yorkshire's decision to pay a £50 million special dividend to its parent group last summer.

The Ofwat measures will require Yorkshire to cut by two-thirds the number of customers who suffer unplanned supply cuts by the end of the decade. Sewer flooding, twice as bad in Yorkshire as any-



Supplies of Yorkshire's emergency drinking water

where else, must be halved in the same time. Leaks and low pressure problems must also be sharply reduced.

Brandon Gough, chairman of Yorkshire Water, said: "Mistakes have been made in the past, but we are determined to put them right." The company had already committed £170 million to protect water supplies.

The two-year price freeze was given a qualified welcome by the Yorkshire consumers' group WaterWatch, which effectively took on Ofwat's mantle during the run-

up to last year's drought. Campaigns officer Peter Bowler said: "Ian Byatt is only now dealing with problems which WaterWatch highlighted two years ago. A year ago, his regional customer services committee was congratulating Yorkshire Water on its efforts to reduce leakage. We knew then that leakage was out of control."

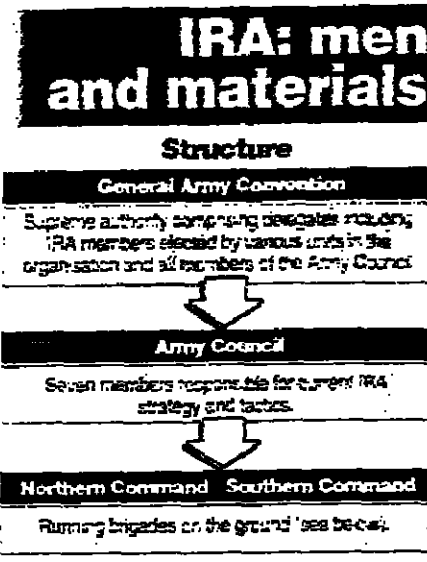
Frank Dobson, Labour's environment spokesman, welcomed Ofwat's action but criticised the regulator for allowing "this shambles" in the first place.

### Weapons

Estimated current inventory of main arms and explosives.

Webley .455	Revolver	50
AK-47/AKM	Assault rifle	650
Armalite AR-15	Assault rifle	Few dozen
Barratt M24A1	Sniper rifle	1
7.62 mm FN MAG	Machine gun	12
12.7 x 107mm DshK	Heavy machine gun	20
RPG-7	Rocket launcher	40
SAM-7	Surface-to-air missile	1
LPO-50	Flame thrower	5
Delonators	For bomb use	600
Semtex	Explosive	3 tonnes

RPG-7 rocket launcher. Fuses 68mm anti-tank missile. Range 200m. Source: Jane's Intelligence Review



# IRA 'has added new mortar to arsenal since ceasefire'

'Mark 17' one of most destructive weapons in armoury, say experts

Richard Norton-Taylor

THE IRA has developed a new type of mortar, described as one of the most destructive weapons in its arsenal, according to an analysis by Jane's Intelligence Review.

The review, quoting intelligence sources in the Republic, says that the "mark 17" mortar was developed during the ceasefire and has been tested in the Carrigford Lough area south of the border.

It estimates that weapons in the IRA armoury, most of which are hidden in the Republic, include 650 AK47 assault rifles, 20 heavy machine guns, and 60 revolvers. It claims that the organisation also has 40 rocket launchers, 600 detonators, and one Sam 7 surface-to-air missile.

British intelligence sources, however, question

the serviceability of the Sam missile and say that the IRA has been having difficulty in obtaining detonators. Though the IRA is believed to be manufacturing its own detonators, the failure to explode a bomb under Hammersmith Bridge in west London in April suggests it is still having trouble.

Security forces in Britain regard the issue of decommissioning weapons as essentially a political question. IRA units, they say, are unlikely to use guns in Britain, apart from in self-protection, since they are more likely to get caught.

Security forces are more concerned about continuing IRA training and targeting, and its ability to make home-made nail bombs, and explosives from components such as nitrobenzene, fertiliser, and diesel oil. They are also concerned about the quantities of Semtex in the IRA's possession.

Jane's Intelligence Review, which will publish an analysis of the IRA in its July and August editions, estimates that the IRA has three tonnes of Semtex. Other sources say two tonnes is more accurate. Even the lower figure would be enough to make hundreds of bombs.

The large amount of Semtex - about 30lb - used in the Hammersmith Bridge bomb suggests that the IRA has ample supplies.

The IRA is estimated to have about 400 hard-core activists. Day-to-day running of the organisation is conducted by a seven-person Army Council. An internal Irish police report contains the names and addresses of those believed to occupy key positions in the upper echelons of the IRA, according to Jane's Intelligence Review.

The report, it says, contains the names and addresses of two of the three members who live in Northern Ireland.

# Last-ditch move over Ulster peace talks

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

THE Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble yesterday met John Major to make a last ditch attempt to resolve the basis of next Monday's all party talks on the future of Northern Ireland, including a timetable for the decommissioning of IRA arms.

A third and final meeting between the British and Irish governments today is expected to settle the procedure for the talks.

Both governments expect a communiqué in which the IRA will be required to decommission some arms by September so long as progress is being made on the political talks.

The communiqué is also likely to state that Senator George Mitchell, the adviser to President Clinton, will be given the chairmanship of the body overseeing decommissioning and the strand of talks on the future of North-South relations.

Mr Mitchell's precise role has been the subject of a long wrangle between the two governments, partly due to Unionist suspicions of him. The Irish and British governments hope this broad framework for talks will convince the IRA to restore its ceasefire unequivocally, the sole precondition set by both governments for Sinn Fein's inclusion in the talks.

Sinn Fein will also be required as a first step in the talks to sign up to the Mitchell principles on non-violence set out by the senator in a government sponsored report in January, something that Sinn Fein has said it is prepared to do.

The IRA has been suspicious of any talks procedure that allows the Unionists to block the talks at the outset on the issue of decommissioning.

But Sinn Fein's surprisingly high 15 per cent share of the votes in last week's elections is seen as an endorsement of the peace strategy of the Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams, thereby putting pressure on the IRA to reinstate the ceasefire.

However, British ministers are aware that the vote of Mr

Trimble's party fell slightly, possibly putting pressure on him to take a less constructive line than he has in the past.

The Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, reiterated at the weekend that he is not insisting on an IRA hand-over of arms at the start of the talks, but he is still insisting, as is Mr Trimble, on some decommissioning during the talks.

Mr Trimble, despite the pressures on him, may just be willing to forgo some decommissioning at the start of the talks.

But he wants to ensure that the two governments today agree a clear procedure and timetable whereby phased decommissioning will take place during the talks.

Mr Trimble could also press for signs of IRA de-escalation of violence before September, short of arms de-

## 'There will be no immediate ceasefire announcement from the IRA'

commisisoning, including an end to punishment beatings, something he regards as an indispensable consequence of Sinn Fein agreeing to sign up to the six Mitchell principles on non-violence at the start of the talks.

Before Mr Trimble met Mr Major, his fellow Ulster Unionist MP, Ken Maginnis, predicted the IRA would not restore the ceasefire before next Monday so rendering pointless any further concessions by the two governments to lure the IRA into a fresh ceasefire and so let Sinn Fein into the talks.

Mr Maginnis predicted: "There will be no immediate ceasefire announcement. Sinn Fein IRA will seek a propaganda coup by resisting that demand until after June 10."

"They intend to project themselves internationally as victims of government intransigence in order to try to restore their tarnished image abroad," he said.

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Children troubles

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News in brief

Children leave over troublesome pupil

ANOTHER 10 children have been withdrawn from Seely Church of England School in Nottingham because of an eight-year-old boy's alleged misbehaviour.

Couple found shot at station

A MAN and a woman were found shot dead in a car at Frimley, a busy Surrey commuter station yesterday.

Keeping street lights burning

BUSINESSMAN Norman Jacobs, 73, yesterday told how he accidentally discovered that he had been paying to light up part of Wisbech town centre for nearly 50 years.

Foot's nephew injured

OLIVER FOOT, son of Lord Caradon and nephew of former Labour leader Michael Foot, is recovering in hospital after being critically injured in a motorcycle accident, it emerged yesterday.

Inquiry call on killer's release

A LABOUR MP yesterday called on the Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, to order an independent inquiry after it emerged that convicted rapist Gavin McGuire had been released from custody just 19 days before he murdered a schoolgirl.

12-year feud settled

A 12-YEAR feud between a miner and a policeman ended with Leeds county court Judge Geoffrey Kamill yesterday telling them they had embroiled the facts and awarded them each £75.

Fewer cases but doubt over whether cows can pass on disease to calves hinders action

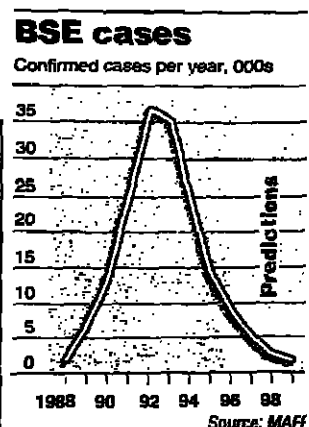
BSE fight 'will last years'

Certificates plan put to EU as cull of 80,000 cattle projected

Paul Brown Environment Correspondent

A NEW plan designed to secure the lifting of the European Union export ban, get the stricken beef industry back to normal, and eventually eradicate BSE, was announced by the Government yesterday.

Britain's EU partners yesterday, admits that cases of BSE will still be occurring in British cattle into the next century. It also acknowledges uncertainty about whether the disease can be passed from a cow to her calves.



Legal instruments introduced between June 1988 and May 1996 to eradicate BSE in Britain. These remove offal from carcasses, regulate hygiene and prevent infected feed being circulated.

The document said the Government's objectives throughout have been to protect consumers of bovine products against any risk, however remote, that BSE may be transmissible to man, to eradicate BSE, and to prevent transmission to other species.

pass it on to calves. Even if they can, the ministry says, there would be so few cases that the eradication programme would still work.

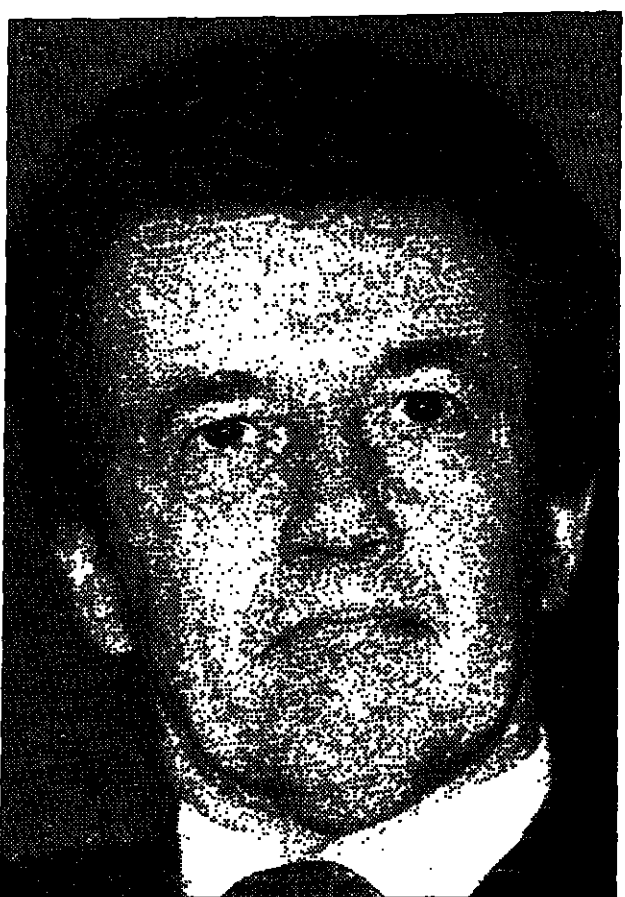
The number of BSE cases was dropping by 40 per cent a year and was expected to be down to 8,000 this year from a peak in 1992 of 36,681. By the year 2000 there are still expected to be around 1,000 cases although the ministry was hoping its selective slaughtering policy would reduce this further.

Major bores into imperturbable European wall

Stephen Bates in Luxembourg

THE Grand Duchy of Luxembourg yesterday resembled a Ruritanian version of Piccadilly Circus. More than 50 European ministers and their entourages wandered through the bleak corridors of the European Centre, a grim example of 1960s civic architecture.

Major's men may have found the continentals' Achilles heel: boredom. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, seemed sanguine about the tactic yesterday, though he admitted it has not made him a Euro-sceptic.



Ministers of war... Eric Forth and Kenneth Clarke. The Europeans now find British veto quaintly absurd



Minister talks down measures Britain will seek to block

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

MICHAEL Howard, the Home Secretary, will set aside his crime-fighting credentials today and block eight European Union measures designed to combat illegal immigration, international terrorism and drug trafficking as part of the continuing protest at the ban on British beef.

of today's meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs Council in Luxembourg, despite the fact that any blocked decision will mean postponement until the next meeting in October.

against employers using illegal immigrants from outside the EU. Agreement on the 1997 budget for the new European Drugs Unit. Based in the Hague and opened two years ago, it allows police and security services intelligence on drug trafficking and organised crime to be circulated throughout the EU.

EU law enforcement academy. Agreement on a new convention for the protection of children across Europe. New sanctions against the international laundering of EU funds embezzled through fraud and corruption.

Shamed minister's successor

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

JONATHAN Evans, junior minister in the Lord Chancellor's Department responsible for handling the divorce bill, was yesterday named as the new Welsh Minister, taking over from Rod Richards who resigned after allegations of marital infidelity.

after the experienced Sir Wyn Roberts rejected any thought of returning to the Welsh Office as a caretaker until the election.

Evans is a bright and ambitious man who is probably privately less than thrilled at being moved from the high profile post in the Lord Chancellor's Department, writes Patrick Wintour.

the minister responsible for corporate and consumer affairs in 1994 when Neil Hamilton resigned over accusations that he had been involved in cash for questions.

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G2 cover story advertisement. Text: 'On TV, they gave through-the-roof ratings to episodes of Roseanne and Friends which climaxed in gay weddings. In Friends the ceremony was performed by Candace Gingrich, Republican House Speaker Newt's younger, lesbian half-sister. (Like America, the Gingrich family is split by the gay issue: on Sunday, Newt said that if his sister married a woman, he would not go to the wedding.)' Includes G2 logo and 'cover story' text.







# Old ally renews Ethiopian courtship

A long history helps Britain's embassy (right, in its heyday) win trade, writes Alice Martin in Addis Ababa



THE gates of the walled British embassy compound in Addis Ababa — one of the loveliest embassies in the world — according to the ambassador Robin Christopher — have been thrown open this week to stone crushers and construction equipment, and to an Ethiopian public invited to sip

tea in marquees hung with bunting and balloons. The embassy is an oasis in a city whose population has doubled in a few years and where electricity and water supplies are limited in many areas. For the duration of this week's Britain in Ethiopia trade fair, the commercial population of Addis Ababa is being welcomed into the grounds to taste the "best of British". Among the machinery and stalls wandered a gaunt figure. Sir Wilfred Thesiger, just turned 86, was born in the embassy compound in one of the round tukul houses that made up the original British legation at the turn of the century, when his father served as minister. The embassy invited him

to spend his birthday here after more than 30 years away from the country. "I have been very moved by my arrival here and seeing it all again," he said, sitting in the cool tukul complex hung with an exhibition of his photographs. "I certainly did not want to return to Ethiopia under General Mengistu... After all, he had murdered Haile Selassie and taken power, and what was going on in this country, from all I gathered, was appalling."

Sir Wilfred left Ethiopia as a child of eight. When he was 14, he met Haile Selassie in London. They later became friends. "I remember his gentle smile when I told him that, more than anything in the world, I wanted to return to his country, and he said to me that one day I would come

as his guest." Sir Wilfred believes he alone received a personal invitation to the emperor's coronation in 1930, a magnificent affair which lasted 10 days. He then went hunting in the Danakil desert, developing a lifelong taste for desert travel.

The name of Thesiger belongs to a long history of British involvement in Ethiopia, and the British community is still growing. The Sandford English School — where half the pupils, including several ministers' children, are Ethiopian — has just celebrated its 50th anniversary. Professor Richard Pankhurst, an Ethiopian history specialist — whose suffragette mother Sylvia Pankhurst lobbied in London against the Italian invasion of 1935 — dates British con-

tact to 1400, when Henry IV wrote to Prester John requesting assistance in the Crusades.

Now, Britain has commerce in its sights. Ethiopia is the second-largest country in sub-Saharan Africa after Nigeria. Despite the poverty, trade promoters are eyeing the export potential of a country of 56 million people.

Britain exports £54.3 million in goods, ranging from water pumps to books, but imports only £15.9 million — mostly in skins for the leather industry. Alan Davidson of the Department of Trade and Industry, who has helped organise this week's fair, conceded that, at present, "trade is not great". But after a series of seminars entitled Opportunity Africa, organised around Britain this year by the DTI, more than 30 British companies have sent representatives to the trade fair. A number of Ethiopians at the opening ceremony privately expressed concern at the trade deficit. "It has been one-way in favour of Britain," said Kassahun Jembere of the Addis Ababa chamber of commerce. "What Ethiopia needs to do is hold this kind of trade fair in Great Britain."

## Bahrain foils 'pro-Iran plot to overthrow government'

Ian Black Diplomatic Editor

THE tiny Gulf state of Bahrain announced yesterday it had foiled a pro-Iranian plot to overthrow the government and was recalling its ambassador to Tehran.

In a move which will heighten Arab-Iranian tensions, Bahrain said 29 citizens had admitted taking part in a conspiracy organised from Revolutionary Guard camps in Iran and guerrilla bases in Lebanon.

The announcement followed a strongly worded statement by the six-member Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), criticising Iran as regional mischief-maker.

"A serious conspiracy has been uncovered which reveals that... the military wing of Hizbullah-Bahrain, together with Iranian authorities, has been plotting since early 1993 to undermine Bahrain's security and stability," said the information minister, Mohammad Ibrahim al-Mutawa.

Bahrain, the Gulf's main financial centre and headquarters of the United States Navy's 5th fleet, has faced unrest involving the Shi'ite Muslim opposition demanding restoration of the 1976 constitution and more jobs.

Twenty-five people have died in the past two years and there have been widespread allegations of human rights abuses by the security forces.

Yesterday's announcement of a coup plot marks a new departure since Bahrain had previously tried to avoid a public confrontation with Iran while privately blaming it for fomenting unrest.

But the US, with its policy of "dual containment" of Iran and Iraq, has been openly attacking Tehran. Britain and its European allies argued that Tehran is more of a convenient scapegoat than the real villain.

On Sunday the GCC publicly warned Iran not to interfere in the internal affairs of GCC states, including Bahrain.

Iran and the United Arab Emirates are in dispute over several islands in the Gulf.

Iran's foreign ministry spokesman, Mahmoud Mohammadi, yesterday attacked the GCC for kowtowing to the US.



Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah of Lebanon, sits between Hizbullah's spiritual leader Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah (left) and Sheikh Ibrahim al-Sayyed at a rally in Beirut yesterday to mark the death of Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran. Sheikh Nasrallah told Riyayim Netanyahu he will retaliate against Israeli attacks on Lebanese citizens. PHOTOGRAPH: JAMAL SADEH

## Hebron clashes raise fears of intifada

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

ISRAELI troops fought stone-throwing Palestinian in Hebron yesterday, sparking fears of another eruption of violence in the West Bank city.

Tension has risen rapidly in Hebron since last week's Israeli election victory by Benjamin Netanyahu.

Mr Netanyahu had said during the campaign that he would not stand by the present Labour government's commitment to withdraw most Israeli occupation troops from Hebron by the middle of this month. Palestinian leaders have warned

that if the troops stay, there could be a renewed outbreak of the intifada, the Palestinian uprising of the late 1980s.

Yesterday's incident will increase pressure on the Likud leader to stand by the withdrawal agreement, which will leave Israeli forces in Hebron to protect the 400 or so Jewish settlers living among more than 100,000 Palestinians.

Israel's closest ally, the United States, has signalled that it too wants the new government to comply with the pullout agreement.

The US ambassador to Israel, Martin Indyk, told Israeli Radio yesterday that Washington would work closely

with the new government "to see those agreements fulfilled".

Mr Netanyahu is preoccupied with building a working majority in the new Knesset (parliament) which is due to convene on June 17. The outgoing government, headed by Shimon Peres, said it would leave the decision on Hebron to the new administration, but pointed out that the agreement with the Palestinians was binding and should be implemented around mid-June.

Meanwhile, pressure mounted on the next prime minister from the leaders of Syria and Egypt, meeting in Cairo yesterday. Both criti-

cised Mr Netanyahu's victory speech in Jerusalem in which he appealed for peace but gave no hint of Israeli concessions to achieve it.

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt said the speech seemed to be continuation of the Likud leader's election campaign. "We decided it would be wise to bide our time and wait to see how the behaviour of the new government will be, even if the speech which the prime minister-elect made yesterday did not inspire optimism," he said.

President Hafiz Assad of Syria was scarcely more enthusiastic. "We will investigate further and initially we

have no feeling that events are going in a positive direction," he said.

President Mubarak is to have talks in Amman, Jordan, tomorrow with King Hussein and with the Palestinian president, Yasser Arafat.

Mr Assad has not been invited to the Amman meeting. Jordanian-Syrian relations, strained since King Hussein's 1994 peace pact with Israel, have taken another dip with the Jordanian claim that it has foiled a series of planned attacks by Syrian-based guerrillas on Israeli tourists.

Mr Netanyahu said yesterday he hoped soon to meet King Hussein and Mr Mubarak, the leaders of the two

Middle East countries with which Israel has full peace treaties.

The former prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, yesterday urged Mr Netanyahu to renege on Israel's peace agreements with the Palestinians and step up construction of Jewish settlements.

Mr Shamir, prime minister from 1986 to 1992, believes Israel has a right to keep the West Bank and Gaza Strip which it captured in the 1967 war. Throughout his rule, he adopted a "not an inch" position in negotiations with the Arabs.

Soundsbites bite back, page 9

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## The film Beijing wants the world not to watch



Andrew Higgins on the anniversary and bitter legacy of the massacre in Tiananmen Square

THE Hong Kong film festival recently screened a new documentary about the 1989 Tiananmen Square uprising without a murmur of public protest from Beijing. Those who ponder political tea-leaves announced a shift from China's past patterns of paranoia. They saw Beijing's silence as a sign that the Communist Party might finally feel secure enough to rethink its trauma that reached its bloody climax seven years ago today with the killing of hundreds of unarmed protesters. It took little time for Beijing to set the record straight. A few days later, as American film buffs prepared to include the same film, The Gate of Heavenly Peace, in their own festival in Washington DC, the Chinese embassy dispatched a tart letter.

"If this film is shown during the festival, it will mislead the audience and hurt the feelings of 1.2 billion Chinese people... It is necessary and appropriate to withdraw this film." The letter, which was ignored, exposed the falsehood of claims that, after so many years, no one in China cares about 1989. "It is not in the forefront of people's minds anymore, unless they lost a family member or suffered an injury that still causes them pain," says the film's director Carma Hinton, a Beijing-born American whose father wrote a classic account of revolution in China's countryside. "But, sooner or later, authorities have to deal with it. Tiananmen can't stay in the freezer forever. When Deng [Xiaoping] will happen. Nobody wants to be the scapegoat."

The rage unleashed by the rampage of the People's Liberation Army seven years ago has long subsided. Student leaders who fled abroad speak as much time sulping at each other as cursing the party elders who ordered in the troops. Activists left behind in China are mostly in jail or in business. Remembrance of the massacre, and of the six weeks of peaceful protests that preceded it, has become compressed into an elaborate rite of summer. Police go on the alert. Foreign journalists stampede Beijing University in search of students smashing little bottles, the Chinese words for which are homophonous with Xiaoping. Deliveries of newspapers from Hong Kong become erratic as the Chinese authorities ponder whether they ought to ban whole editions or merely remove pages with articles or photographs referring to 1989. The handful of people left who might be tempted to speak out are rounded up and held incommunicado until the June 4 anniversary has passed. Prominent in this year's pre-anniversary sweep is Wang Xizhe, a veteran activist seized by police last Fri-

day in the southern city of Guangzhou. Beneath the frozen formula, however, lies a subversive certainty that the official verdict condemning the student-led protests as "counter-revolution" must, one day, be reversed — as were earlier judgments against "rightists" in the 1950s, victims of the Cultural Revolution from 1966-76, and those who took part in an earlier spasm of protest in Tiananmen Square in 1976. "Political symbols are tremendously important in China," says Robin Munro, the Hong Kong director of Human Rights Watch/Asia. "They may hibernate because of repression, but history shows they acquire even greater significance when driven underground. There has to be a day of reckoning." Ordinary citizens show more interest in getting rich than settling the scores of 1989, but the Communist Party is clearly unable to put the trauma behind it. Only obsessive sensitivity can explain its hounding around the globe of Ms Hinton's remarkable documentary, a work so scrupulously objective that exiled student leaders condemn it as an at-

tempt to vindicate the Chinese leadership. The first serious study of the student-led revolt on film, the three-hour work shows how extremists triumphed over moderate voices both in the student encampment on Tiananmen Square and in the leadership compound of Zhongnanhai. "China's problem is not a shortage of passionate causes, but its inability to handle differences, to allow a range of voices to speak out. Our film is about debate, about allowing a plurality of views to be expressed," says Ms Hinton. But such debate annoys radical students, particularly those elevated to celebrity status in the West, and terrifies the party leadership in Beijing. Any public deviation from the official line is taboo. "Nobody can open up discussion of this thing in China," says Ms Hinton. "Everybody knows what is really going on, but nobody wants to talk about it in public. If people started talking, the party's verdict would never hold. They are so afraid of a momentum building up again... Everybody is vulnerable in a situation where no one knows where power will lie when Deng goes."

## Xinjiang bosses step up fight against 'splittists'

Graham Earnshaw in Beijing

CHINESE authorities have expanded a crackdown on separatists and illegal religious activities to include colleges and schools throughout the restive north-west region of Xinjiang. The "Strike Hard" campaign against crime and "terrorism" in the mainly Muslim region had caught 2,773 terrorists, murderers and other criminals, and seized more than 600 guns since it was launched in early April, the China Business Times reported yesterday. It quoted an official as saying six cases involved "terrorists" who had "killed rural cadres and assassinated progressive religious leaders". All six cases had been successfully dealt with, the official said. This frontier region bordering Afghanistan, Pakistan and three mostly Muslim Central Asian states has been shaken in recent weeks by violent clashes and political killings involving separatists who want to end Chinese rule. In the latest expansion of the crackdown, Xinjiang Tele-

vision reported that this month "our region will concentrate on thoroughly clearing up and rectifying college campuses and neighbouring areas". It quoted a vice-chairman of the local government, Wang Huaiyu, as saying that colleges must "resolutely oppose national separatism, resist and stop the infiltration of religions into colleges and remove their influence on students". A Xinjiang education official said: "Students are not adults and lack the ability of self-protection", while in the regional capital, Urumqi, a television editor accused the separatists of interfering in campus life. Xinjiang government leaders fighting to curb the increasingly violent campaign for more independence have warned that "splittism" and illegal religious activities pose the biggest threat to stability in the region. The campaign to suppress the separatists has brought a ban on the construction of mosques, tightened controls on religion and stricter searches for weapons hidden in goods and luggage entering Xinjiang, according to local officials. — Reuter.



A classier way to teach
Let our role model be Dagenham not Taiwan

ONCE upon a time school inspectors used to wear no shoes but three pairs of socks yet still refused to kick even the worst teaching practice they observed.

The new Woodhead goal — increasing whole class maths teaching in primary schools from 25 to 60 per cent of all class work — is not prompted by whim but by international research.

Teachers have plenty of grounds for complaint. An establishment which embraced child-centred learning 25 years ago is now ready to ditch it.

more complex than a simple battle between progressives and traditionalists. Plowden did not transform education overnight. Ten years on, only one in 20 schools was following the full child-centred approach.

Researchers will row over the new findings for the next decade. Teachers will rightly warn of the dangers of importing teaching methods from abroad. But David Reynolds is right to ask policy-makers to look beyond our borders to examine why other countries are more successful in maths.

Europe's unfolding dilemmas

What's good for markets isn't always good for democracy

EUROPE'S many types of ambiguity were on full show yesterday, from Brussels through Berlin to Prague and right on down to Tirana. The beef tale can be left to narrate its own absurdities.

Mr Klaus basks in the praise of Western analysts for his programme of economic reforms. These have been neoliberal and Thatcherite even if rounded at the edges.

a future Europe as becoming "a model for how different peoples can work together in peace without sacrificing any of their identity."

In Berlin the Nato foreign ministers sought yesterday to address the biggest discrepancy between European rhetoric and practice. They have conceded that the Bosnian pull-out should be delayed till after the elections there even though this will clash with the US presidential election.

Welshing on the Welsh

The Tories risk losing their shirts outside England

PEOPLE who accept government office, opines the right-wing Conservative MP David Evans, must recognise that they "wear an England shirt".

In spite of his own Welsh name, Mr Evans is very much a Londoner. This probably explains why he seems to have forgotten so readily that some of his Conservative colleagues still actually represent distant lands called Scotland and Wales.

would have been well able to speak authoritatively in Wednesday night's Commons debate on the use of the Welsh language in parliamentary proceedings.

There was a time — not so very long ago either — when both Scots and Welsh Conservatives were powers in their respective lands. No longer. A Conservative electoral wipe-out in Wales next time round is by no means impossible.

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Letters to the Editor

Jack Straw's quest for street cred

YOUR leader (A curfew on commonsense, June 3) on the proposal to give local authorities, in agreement with the police and local residents, a power to make sure that children aged 10 and under are not left unsupervised on the streets late at night was as hysterical as it was confusing.

Furthermore, your paradoxical claim that the problem is "largely non-existent" will have been read by incredulity by those who grapple daily with the problems facing young children in many parts of Britain.

This is a serious problem, especially in the summer months, as a Deptford youth worker pointed out on BBC radio. The NSPCC have added their voice, saying they welcome a debate on parental responsibilities.

Of course, some of the young children out on the streets late at night are in family problems in their homes. But how on earth does the Guardian's solution — that is, doing nothing — solve this?

If our proposal was accepted, it would be for the local communities, through councils and the local police, to trigger action. Far from an indiscriminate national imposition, our approach would empower communities, while

identifying children who are at risk much earlier.

At root, this is a policy for child protection. The process by which councils and the police would have to engage in public debate before they could use these powers should lead to better local agreement — and natural enforcement — of standards of behaviour which are in everyone's interests, especially those of parents and children.

Supposedly intractable social problems such as this often require radical solutions. It is in this context that Labour is ready to consider innovative solutions as part of its wide-ranging programme to improve community safety, encourage parental responsibility, reform youth justice and tackle the underlying causes of crime.

Your assertion that ensuring that those aged 10 and under should not be out late at night would especially hit "black communities" is patronising nonsense, unworthy of a serious newspaper. Jack Straw MP, Shadow Home Secretary, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

YOUR excellent leader expressed exactly how I feel about Jack Straw's obscene and repulsive attack upon young people, and upon the civil liberties of us all. I joined the Labour Party a year ago because I wanted an end to Conservative rule. Now I find that Labour is not merely aping Conservatism, but on occasion is flirting with far-right authoritarianism. Straw's latest outburst has convinced me that we have little to gain from the election of a Labour government. I will not be renewing my party membership. (Dr) Richard Drimphy, University of Dundee, Dundee DD1 4EN.

JACK Straw is the last straw. New Labour wants to lock up the young at night. In practice this means locking up working-class children, the children of the affluent will be ferried back and forth by their parents or given money for taxis, the children of the poor will have to stay home or face punishment. The ethos of imprisoning people in their own homes before they commit crimes is

not one we would have associated with the Labour Party or indeed with any party in a democracy. In their eagerness to poach votes from the right, Labour has effectively disenfranchised the left. Land T Abramsky, 18 Vanbrugh Road, London W4 1JB.

WILL future teenagers, under an administration including Jack Straw, be writing essays about being forced out of further education and into low-paid jobs by cuts in benefits and student grants, and then not even being allowed out in the evening? Will 17-year-olds, legally driving home at night, find themselves being stopped and arrested for being out after their bedtime?

Straw has stressed that local authorities would be able to set their own age and time limits; but this is surely the most dangerous aspect of the whole lunatic idea. One can well imagine some unpopular council with an ageing electorate chasing votes by promising to be tough on annoying youngsters. This possibility deserves to be met with zero tolerance. Dave Jennings, 29 Hertford Road, London N7 6PH.

FIRST it was squeegee merchants Straw wanted off the streets. Now it is children. Which social group will this moral mugger turn on next? In the interest of public safety, he should be restrained. Rod Edmond, 8 St Augustine's Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1XP.

Vogue treads a thin line

VOGUE'S editor is correct when she states ("Anorexic" models cost Vogue ads, May 31) that women who tend towards anorexia do not get it from magazines but from a loss of self-worth instilled in them before they even look at Vogue. I know this only too well having hated my body since I was three. I have had eating disorders since my teens — eating hardly anything and becoming very thin, then eating compulsively in my early twenties, which caused my weight to balloon in two years so that I went from a size 10 dress to size 20.

However, images of thin women make me feel inadequate, ugly and out of control. When I look at a slim woman in a magazine I become obsessed with diets and exercises. I look at my fat stomach and flabby arms and feel such disgust that at times I would like to be dead.

All Browning, Mytholmroyd, Hebden Bridge HX7. I WAS about seven when I first started to compare myself unfavourably with the prevailing ideal of womanhood. As I grew physically, there was only one thing left to do to alleviate the panic and despair about growing out of my allotted space: I had to get smaller, to take up less room. More than 20 years on, I still struggle with food, size and shape. It has preoccupied me to a greater or lesser extent all my adult life.

While the images rammed down our throats by the beauty industry do not "cause" eating disorders, I have no doubt that they must take a large share of blame in fuelling the overwhelming sense of inadequacy that predisposes so many young women (and men) to shrink their worlds — sometimes to the point of extinction. Catherine McCloskey, Bounds Green, London N11.

ILL be 20 later this month, and already I've seen contemporaries starve and vomit themselves to the point of death. I don't feel like putting up with this any more. In the interest of presenting a variety of images to those nearly 20-year-olds, here's an offer for Alexandra Shulman: free of charge, I'll put my fit, well-fed and cherished body in front of Vogue's cameras. Might cost you advertising (god forbid women with 36-inch hips should wear clothes), but it might save lives. Kate Joester, Pollock Halls of Residence, Hollywood Park Road, Edinburgh.

Word perfect

ALWAYS enjoy reading Ian Aitken, but his scepticism towards our new literacy targets for primary-school children (Labour beefs up its style, June 1) was a little wide of the mark. I deliberately did not use the concept of "average" with respect to getting youngsters up to their chronological reading age.

When my children were tested for dyslexia, and when they succeeded in bridging the one-year gap between their expected competence and what they had previously been able to achieve, the tests were based not on an ever-moving average, but on clearly defined goals.

Healthy scepticism of us all in politics is not unwelcome, but wide-of-the-mark cynicism is dangerous and corrosive, undermining of the hope of something better tomorrow. David Blumkett MP, Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

IN the same week that we read of research showing that special programmes in music and visual-arts teaching have brought significant improvements in children's reading and mathematics, and an improved attitude to learning in general (May 25), David Blumkett proposes a return to "basics" and traditional methods (May 30).

No suggestion here of an investment in the resources and imaginative approaches necessary to capitalise on the talents of pupils and teachers who recognise that teaching anything well is an art. New Labour or old hat? David Ainley, 41 The Hill, Cromford, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3RF.

Star wars are a costly game

LARRY ELLIOTT (Better off Las 51st state, Economics page, June 3) is right to assert that 95 per cent of our culture is imported from the US. He fails, however, to put a price on this cultural domination.

The European Union has an unassailable 84 per cent share in audio-visual products, which translates into a loss of well in excess of 250,000 jobs. In a fast-expanding industry, where two million jobs could be created and huge economic multimedia spin-offs possible before the millennium, this cultural one-way traffic is economic lunacy.

If our children receive no images of the continent in which they live, are we not depriving them of knowledge and understanding which will

enrich them culturally, and help them get top jobs in Europe? Just because older generations have been cut off from Jules et Jim is no reason not to offer real cultural choice to our young people. Carole Tongue MEP, European Parliament, 97-101 rue Belliard, 1047 Brussels.

DOWN with Ode to Joy; up with The Star-Spangled Banner! The only trouble is the absence of any evidence that Americans would look on the prospect of our joining their Union other than with indifference or alarm. J G Thompson, 7 Saxon Close, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 7DX.

Beat is best

FOLLOWING numerous examples of poor crowd control at football matches, it was irresponsible of the Government to allow Euro 96 to be held in Britain. In the wake of 1980s football hooliganism, strong drink was banned from football grounds. What use is that when irresponsible magistrates allow pubs and clubs to extend drinking hours so that fans can get drunk before they arrive?

In spite of the England team's disappointing performance in Hong Kong, the Royal Hong Kong Police was able to prevent any disturbance erupting. Hong Kong by retaining a beat system of policing, has safer streets and homes than Britain. C G March, Ex-Hong Kong Chief of Police, Linton Road, Wetherby LS22 6HE.

Punctures for the cycling minister

HAVEN'T seen the green paper which Sir George Young calls "the most comprehensive statement of transport policy in nearly 30 years" (Letters, May 31) but, from its lack of impact in rural Dorset, I assume that there is no new money forthcoming, only hot — if cleaner — air.

Our council cannot make the longer-term changes in transport patterns we'd like to because we have no realistic alternative to the car. Buses are few and don't serve all our villages. In the whole of East Dorset district, there is no train station. If the Government is serious about a strategy, it must provide local authorities with money for new services before it starts to consider road-pricing. This receipt should come from the receipts of privatisation. (Cllr) Pamela Sylvester, Vice-chair, Environment Committee, East Dorset District Council, Furzehill, Wimborne, Dorset.

WOULD find Sir George Young's letter funny were it not so pathetic. Here on Skye privatisation of the mainland link has given us no signifi-

A Country Diary

SOMERSET: Through the coldest May, as they tell us, since 1699, with much time spent indoors looking out at windswept trees and sodden grass, it has been a relief to be spared the overhead clatter of starlings in the roof. The replaced tile has held and kept them out. But a friend who lives in an early 17th-century cottage in Milborne Port has been disturbed by weird scurrilous and runchings from the middle reach of a Z-shaped chimney. Her neighbour reported jackdaws carrying nesting materials. When she went to look, she saw one bringing a twig much longer than itself to her chimney-stack. Builders armed with rods and poles probed from the top but failed to shift a solid mass at first-floor level. A sweep equipped with modern, sophisticated devices, including one with a corkscrew action, failed too. Throughout these attempts the jackdaws held noisy committee meetings and, during a weekend lull in human activity,

returned to their building work. On Monday the builders went in through the stone wall and took out three heavy loads of compacted twigs. One disgruntled jackdaw still strutted crossly up and down the lawn at the end of the sad but necessary campaign. It has been more peaceful for us to watch the pair of red-legged partridges that visit us every day, and increasingly boldly. We have not seen them before this year. One is particularly portly and has a stiff, pompous gait, ignoring my approach and the steady gaze of the superior Persian cat from nextdoor, who observes keenly from the top of the post and rail fence as the birds strut and peck in the manner of chickens. The other partridge tends to scurry off. Neither shows much enthusiasm for getting airborne but, if provoked, they take a very long, flapping run, and with what looks like an enormous expense of energy, just about clear the hedge. JOHN VALLINS



Handwritten note: "The Guardian Tuesday June 4 1996"

Diary

Matthew Norman

CONCERN mounts for the mental health of Michael Winner, whose many friends fear that over-exposure to voyeuristic cop shows, like his own defunct True Crimes, may have damaged his mind. The Diary called yesterday to discuss a Daily Mail interview in which he describes how he has been mother-bled milk in his casinos; and in which he claims that her ghost now haunts his west London house. This is very odd. Would anyone travel to Holland Park when, as an excuse for not having to socialise with him, they could cite their own death? Least of all his late mother, who, so he once said on TV, spent years suing him, confused by this, we rang and were instantly astonished. "Hang on, I'll switch on the tape recorder," he said, before intoning the name of his caller, and the time and date. He thinks he's in a police interview room! Top psychologists may agree that, unable to accept the scrapping of True Crimes, he has withdrawn into a fantasy version of the TV world from which he has been excluded. So the APB, APB, one white Canadian, approximately 60 years, 26 stone, knickers twice the size of New South Wales, requires urgent assistance. APB. APB...

WITH its first birthday on June 12, executives at Live TV plan celebrations. The main event is likely to be Royal Topless Darts, with look-alikes of Diana and Fergie battling on the oche. However, no decision has been taken as to whether to follow this with a boxing match between the Diana doppelganger and a ringer for the Queen.

THE News of the World report on Rod "Ram Rod" Richards, the tapping Tory taff, highlights again that paper's enduring refinement. Having interviewed the actress, the NOW reported: "Julia gushed: 'I am so very fond of him. He is a wonderful man. He doesn't just come home and s\*\*\* me.'" How delicate the newspaper's sensibilities are. Could they, in fact, be almost too delicate? In shock news from Colchester, my friend Mary Whitehouse of the Times writes: "Shag or snog? Shag? Oh dear. I think it's better to blank out a word like that altogether," says Mary, thoughtfully. "Putting in asterisks just makes every one say, 'Oh, I wonder what that means?' They might as well print the full word."

JUST this once, we will reject Mary's advice, while counselling her — should she be ever be minded to visit the Tyrol — to steer well clear of the northern Austrian village of F\*\*\*ing. A picture of the road sign appears in the current issue of the Fortean Times. Beneath that name is a picture of a boy and girl (clearly under age) and the German for: "Not too fast".

PRINCESS Diana's offensively clever lawyer Anthony Julius last week gave a lecture at University College entitled "Love Poets and The Art of Advocacy". A large audience turned out to hear Dr Julius, whose new book has reopened the debate about TS Eliot's anti-semitism, and among many legal and literary luminaries were Dr Germaine Greer, the brilliant QC David Pannick and a phalanx of judges and literary professors. But who was this, sitting near the front? Heavens above... it was the conjurer Paul Daniels, and his wife, the lovely Debbie McCree. Although she tried her best, I think Debbie may have struggled a bit, says a spectator. "But Paul seemed to like it." But not a lot? "Quite a lot. It was good of them to come." Yes, but why? Surely Mr Daniels doesn't fancy himself a close intellectual? I could take almost anything in life. But not that.

COMFORT for the travelled Paul Gascoigne comes from Brian, landlord of the Coach and Horses. "That Diary bloke misquoted me," says Brian. "I did not say that he wouldn't be served. I said he wouldn't be served if he was drunk." So Gazza isn't barred at all. I am barred, however, and rightly so.



Time for the great leap backward

Commentary

Hugo Young

BRITAIN's beef war is not a Cabinet policy. It is, to a peculiar extent, the Prime Minister's policy. That doesn't mean the Cabinet disagrees with it. This isn't a case of John Major flying in the face of his ministers, or by-passing their judgment by fixing matters in little ad-hoc meetings, though such meetings have been frequent and furious. But the Cabinet's factions are regarding Mr Major with a certain detachment. Taking on the Europeans was a singularly personal decision. The colleagues are watching carefully to see when and how it might come to grief.

It was taken a fortnight ago, to save the job of Douglas Hogg. After the EU vets' committee had given thumbs down to Britain's BSE-eradication plans, Mr Hogg was due to stand up in the House of Commons and say that nonetheless things were moving our way, as would be proved at the next meeting of

agriculture ministers, who would deploy different voting rules to override the vets. The Chief Whip came to the Prime Minister and said he didn't believe he could hold the party behind this line. If the Minister of Agriculture made any such feeble promise, he would be destroyed by his own side. Mr Major then took a double decision. Not only would he make the statement himself, but he would announce a British withdrawal of co-operation from all EU decision-making. This line had already been prepared, but for use only if the agriculture ministers failed to override the vets: is today, June 4. So the tactic, which in EU terms is near the top of the escalatory ladder of aggressive manoeuvring, was implemented very suddenly. It now leaves nothing in the locker when (if) the EU fails to deliver what really matters: a phased plan for lifting the ban on British beef itself, which can be sold to the House of Commons by sidelining Hogg and putting himself at the front. Mr Major assures that he will be held accountable for what this extremely risky tactic fails to deliver.

He was not restrained by a weak Foreign Secretary, whose forsaking of strategic wisdom pretty well matches his grasp of the latest twitch of Tory party politics. Europe is going to be a subject on which Malcolm Rifkind, unlike his predecessor, declines to teach a single lesson that might offend the sensibilities of, shall we say, Michael Spicer MP, let alone Bill Cash. Kenneth Clarke seems to have gone along with the tactic only in order that he could immediately limit its effect, putting on record the assurance that it was only temporary, and was certainly not the prelude to an empty chair. This small gain mattered. Leaving the British chair empty at the EU summit in Florence on 21 June was a proposal Major rejected only after it had been pushed hard in Cabinet by the usual suspects.

These are currently the more triumphant of the Major-watchers. Not content with the successes they've had in knocking him around for the last four years, they sense the moment for a great leap backward may be at hand. Yesterday's statement accompanying Michael Howard's acting-out of his part in the veto process, saying that the EU measures in question didn't matter all that much anyway, exuded the sneer of unrepentance. In one there's little to choose these days between Mr Howard and John Redwood, who sees the beef *démarche* as the cue for a generalised assault on the entire EU structure, beginning with the Court of Justice.

Reining these people back, and satisfying them with anything less than total victory, is the political problem Major created in the act of making his wholly political response to the vets. He has shown them blood and they're slaving for more. Curiously, however, it's the other school of watchers who may soon have the whip hand. But perhaps that's not so curious. Having dealt the sceptics their greatest victory so far, on the road to making the EU unworkable and therefore infeasible, it would for Major be out of character not to move swiftly in the opposite direction. Very likely this is about to happen.

What the mainstreamers said to him was, in effect: OK, you can have your tactic, but on your head be it if it fails. Failure, as Major well understands, doesn't consist simply of surrender. Breakdown would be just as big a failure.

The British bargaining position is weak. It requires goodwill on the other side of the table

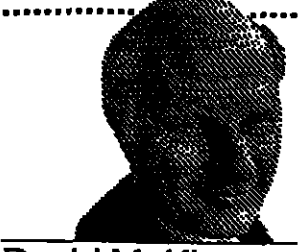
So far, most European governments have behaved with amazing tolerance, given the truths that haven't changed. Remember them. BSE isn't a problem of Europe's making. More than 20 countries banned British beef before Europe did, and won't even contemplate lifting it. The dispute so far is about science and markets, not politics or protectionism. The issue is substance not process, and has nothing to do with a matter of principle.

Home Secretary with God on his side

The British bargaining position is, therefore, weak. It requires goodwill on the other side of the table. The EU is a vast network of deal-making and compromise, a culture which majoritarian British politicians, accustomed to the dictat-politics the British system permits, defy at their peril. Defying it can have only the briefest relevance now exhausted. Defying it indefinitely is a form of slow-motion suicide for the national interest, which is being explicitly demonstrated by the number of British-backed EU initiatives Britain is now vetoing every day.

This truth cannot be undone by roars of bloody-minded nationalism. That is why the logic of Clarke rather than Howard will, I think, soon have to be respected. The political consequence of a crack-up in EU functioning will be the rising up of the silent majority of Tories who will not countenance it. The diplomatic consequence will be the marginalising still further and more permanently of the one member-state that is seeking to destroy the other's trust. These are facts, not options.

Facing such a prospect, Mr Major will blink. Euro-realism will be forced upon him — until the next time. The exercise will have been his personal contribution to Britain's advancement in Europe. It will cede, for once, a kind of victory to the anti-septic cause. This has to happen by the Florence summit at the latest. Major may regret with some relief that this falls on the first anniversary of his only acquiring the Joynson when he married the daughter of a well-to-do Manchester manufacturer of that name. (Such practices were by no means unusual then: his Cabinet colleague Philip Cunliffe-Lister had logged along as Philip Lloyd-Greene until his wife came into a sizeable slice of North Yorkshire.)



David McKie

SOME say Michael Howard is the worst Home Secretary ever. Others, not wishing to give that honour away too lightly, suggest he is merely the worst since Henry Brooke (1862-64), father of Peter. In his dashing way, however, the dissident Tory backbencher Sir Julian Critchley has produced a more surprising yardstick. Howard, he said in a letter to the Guardian last week, is the worst Home Office incumbent since Hicks.

A bit of a mystery, this, since the records fail to reveal a home secretary called Hicks. One or two Hicks, perhaps, but no Hickses. Even so, Sir Julian's right. Sir William Joynson-Hicks, later Lord Brentford, who was Baldwin's Home Secretary from 1924 to 1929, was born plain Hicks, the son of a pianopolitan at the Smithfield meat market, only acquiring the Joynson when he married the daughter of a well-to-do Manchester manufacturer of that name. (Such practices were by no means unusual then: his Cabinet colleague Philip Cunliffe-Lister had logged along as Philip Lloyd-Greene until his wife came into a sizeable slice of North Yorkshire.)

Jix, as he came to be known, was a kind of twin-track reactionary — in politics and in religion. His best Commons speeches, some people said, were those designed to prevent the church authorities getting their new-fangled hands on the traditional prayer book. Sometimes it wasn't quite clear where the one impulse ended and the other began. "The people of Ulster," he told them as they contemplated insurrection against Home Rule in 1913, "have behind them the Unionist Party behind them is the Lord God of Battle; in His name and your name, I say to the Prime Minister: 'Let your armies and batteries fire. Fire if you dare. Fire and be damned.'"

As Home Secretary he began by Howardesquely announcing his plans to keep infiltration by aliens, many of whom he was sure were political agitators, down to an absolute minimum. His unbridled public enthusiasm for deporting people under the Defence of the Realm Act greatly encouraged his chums on the "liberal" wing of the party, but dismayed more pragmatic colleagues. Two things Jix could not abide were Communism and filth. He successfully set in hand the prosecution of leading members of the Commu-

nist Party under the Incitement to Mutiny Act. The judge said he'd spare them prison if they'd only renounce their disgraceful views, but they wouldn't, so some went down for six months and others for 12. Later, as leading light in the Cabinet faction which wanted to break with Soviet Russia for backing the strikers during the General Strike, he sanctioned a raid on an outfit called Arcos, which traded with the Soviet Union and shared its headquarters with the Soviet trade delegation. No sign was found of the top-secret documents they were said to be looking for, though material found on the premises was officially said to be "compromising".

Regularly, as part of the Home Secretary's mission to "clean up London", squadrons of police were sent into nightclubs to find out what people were doing and tell them to stop. No raid was actually sanctioned on DH Lawrence, but his works were condemned by Jix in biblical terms. In other respects, however, he didn't allow his conscience to over-burden him. As financial secretary to the Treasury he chided Chancellor Baldwin for failing to make the usual pre-election concessions to brewers, the NFU and other friends of the party. "After all," he complained in his fire-and-damaged way, "we are party politicians, and we honestly feel it is in the interests of the country that we should rule rather than the scoundrels opposite."

It needs to be said to Julian Critchley, however, that Jix wasn't all reaction. He put through a Shops Act for which many a shop hand blessed him. An injudicious promise by him — some accounts say in a Commons debate, others on the hustings — may have been crucial in committing the Baldwin government to make the voting age for women the same as that for men. Most liberals would give him credit for that — though it has to be said that when taxed by the Bill's opponents with bringing about this disaster, Jix always used to maintain that it was his fault.

One can count, though, he deserves to be counted a hero. Liberal on penal reform, reactionary on everything else, as Roy Jenkins once called him, he was Tumin or Woolf, not Howard, in his handling of prison issues, civilising the treatment of juvenile delinquents and young offenders, and declaring that the purpose of prison was reform rather than punishment. The sufferings of prisoners' families particularly troubled him. He hoped, he confided towards the end of his tenancy, that thanks to his reforms, his successors in 30 years' time would have the pleasure of closing prisons, not opening them. Not, I think, a line Sir Julian Critchley is ever likely to hear emerging from Michael Howard.

Let the markets wreak social havoc, but keep the kids under control and out of sight. That's the logic and the hollowness of Jack Straw's plans, argues Larry Elliott

Labour's mean streets

NEW Labour loves flexing its muscles. It is tough on single mothers, it is tough on parents who let their children play truant, it is tough on noisy neighbours and, as we now know, it is tough on infants playing on the street after dusk. The only thing it is not tough on is the economy.

As far as the Opposition is concerned, the days when a national government could manage demand or ensure full employment are long gone. Globalised capital markets mean that all a "centre-left" government can offer is some education, some training and a bit more research and development, then let the market get on with it. But having decided that it can no longer regulate the economy, it is left with a bit of a vacuum. Governments have to do something. So Labour has a new idea. It will regulate the people instead, imposing a panoply of social controls to ensure that the problems caused by the uncontrollable deregulated economy — crime, juvenile delinquency, family breakdown — don't threaten the comfortable lifestyles of its new middle-class constituency.

There is a rationale for this new approach. It is that Labour's core constituency, the traditional working class, is precisely that part of the electorate most affected by anti-social behaviour, and it will welcome a return to the social order that characterised the 1930s. After all, Clement Attlee was no soggy liberal when it came to social policy.

Actually, of course, the thing Labour's core constituency would most welcome would be a guaranteed job, protected by decent employment rights and perhaps even defended by trade unions with some negotiating clout. But this is off the agenda. Instead, New Labour's sales pitch at the next election looks like being the 1930s in



reverse: instead of Harold Wilson's mixture of economic interventionism and social liberalism, we will have economic liberalism and social authoritarianism.

Although some economists have worked out schemes for taxing foreign-exchange speculators, and a new computer is being introduced to clamp down on City insider-dealing, New Labour will take a hands-off approach to the markets. But there will be plenty of intervention when it comes to cutting out fatty foods, drinking less and in-

stalling surveillance cameras the length and breadth of the country. We will have all the pain of free-market capitalism, but with state-financed counselling to soften the blow.

The Wilson government of 1964-70 was interventionist in a different way. This was the heyday of Keynesianism, with George Brown's National Plan, Barbara Castle's super-ministry of Employment and Productivity, and an Industrial Re-organisation Corporation to create huge new conglomerates. The

idea was that Labour would increase the growth-rate to 3.2 per cent a year, guarantee full employment, improve living standards and be able to spend more on health, on education, on housing and on pensions.

But at the same time the Wilson government saw no real reason why it should meddle needlessly in people's personal lives, so it eased up on censorship, made divorce easier and gave a fair wind to the private members' bills that abolished capital punishment and changed the

abortion laws. It was not that the Wilson Cabinet was awash with kaftan-wearing members of the permissive society: merely that it was felt that these were matters best left to individuals.

Now Labour economic policy now goes like this. Low inflation is the key to economic growth, and it must be defeated at all costs. Page one in Mrs Thatcher's primer for economic management says that interest rates have to be used to beat down an inflation. Page two says that budget deficits are another cause of inflation, so there can be no question of a return to Keynesian tax-and-spend policies.

The problem is that there is absolutely no evidence that low inflation and slashed budget deficits leads to higher growth. Indeed, the pursuit of them may lead to lower growth. This then leaves the question of where the money is to be spent. In order to finance improvements in training, education and investment allowances and the rest of Labour's supply-side renaissance.

And, of course, for the extra policy to impound those errant 10-year-olds.

Soundbites bite back

Given the rhetoric of Israel's next prime minister, does peace stand a chance? Derek Brown is pessimistic

COMPLETE mastery of the soundbite has been the making of Binyamin Netanyahu — and it may yet be the breaking of him. Already, the leader-to-be has abandoned the glib one-liners of the election campaign for the vague, rapid waffle of statesmanship. His victory speech was a model of day night was a model of finely phrased evasion, emphasising a deep commitment to national unity and regional peace.

But Bibi's way to peace is littered with verbal hostages to fortune. On virtually every one of the tortuously complicated issues looming before him, he has boxed himself in with vowing slogans.

On Jerusalem, he has at least been consistent. Before, during and since the campaign, he has flatly rejected not only any change in the city's de-facto status, but also any discussion of such change. No matter that Israel is firmly committed to discussing the status of Jerusalem with the PLO. No matter that those discussions have already started. In his words, "It is a clause on

their agenda, and not ours. If they raise the issue, I will drop it. I will not respect any agreement." So much for the continuity of the peace process.

The same long-term talks, due to be concluded within Netanyahu's four-year term, will cover three other issues: refugees, Jewish settlements and the borders and status of Palestine. Here is Bibi on a Palestinian state: "It is an existential threat to Israel. Israel will ensure a Palestinian state will not be established." On the Jewish settlements, he is equally adamant: "We'll certainly strengthen the settlement community, the Jewish community, in these areas. This is the heart of the land of Israel."

And on refugees: "Should a Palestinian state be established, it will forge alliances with Iran and Iraq. A Palestinian state will threaten Jordan. It can bring a million refugees to the field, and they will be settled on the Green Line [Israel's 1967 border]."

As for his invitation to Israel's neighbours to join "the circle of peace", there can only be one target for that saccharine-tipped shaft, and Syria is unlikely to be impressed by the prospect of talks with a man who has stated unequivocally that Israel will keep the Golan Heights.

Nor, for that matter, will many Arabs be too smug over the massive concession implicit in Netanyahu's offhand comment: "The Arabs are quite realistic. When there is a weak government like the government of Mr Peres, they demand everything, and they get everything, and they demand more."

Advertisement for Irritable Bowel Syndrome. Text: "The man is a national treasure" (What Doctors Don't Tell You). IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME? Helpful Advice From Dr Vernon Coleman. If you suffer from Irritable Bowel Syndrome you will know only too well how this painful disorder can ruin your life. I used to suffer terribly from IBS, and had all the usual symptoms (pain, wind etc) but conquered the problem using a simple, two-step control programme. Since then my symptoms have virtually disappeared and the quality of my life has improved beyond measure. Now you can share the information that gave me back a normal life. I have produced a book called "Relief from IBS" that explains the methods I used to solve my IBS problem. The advice is written in an easy-to-follow style and includes a series of simple, practical guidelines designed to help you deal with your IBS in the same way that I dealt with mine. The topics covered include: Causes and symptoms; How to look after your digestive system; Relief from wind; Tips on how to cope with stress; Foods that can make things worse. Having suffered from IBS for several years I know what a devastating effect it can have on your life and I do hope my book will be able to help you. You can try my advice without risk - if you don't find the book helpful then simply return it to me within 28 days of receipt for a full refund. To order your copy send a cheque or postal order for £9.95 to IBS Book Offer, Sales Office GU58, Publishing House, Trinity Place, Barnstable, Devon EX32 9HU. Post and packing is FREE! For credit card sales please ring (01271 328892). Your book will be sent to you within 28 days. Reading this book could help solve your IBS problem for good - and remember, you have nothing to lose but your symptoms. "His advice is optimistic and enthusiastic" (The British Medical Journal). "Dr Vernon Coleman is one of our most enlightened, trenchant and sensible dispensers of medical advice" (The Observer). Published by the European Medical Journal.







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# Finance Guardian

**It could be cheaper for you, say two of Britain's leading companies, as bakers bite back at protestations of 'hand' that offers the consumer long odds on instant £1m**



City high-flyer... the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street may have seen things stranger than the launch of Tesco's loyalty scheme  
PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL TREACY

## Millions will save on BT charges

Nicholas Baxxister

**P**HONE charges for millions of British Telecom's residential customers will be reduced sharply from next year under new price control proposals published yesterday by OfTel, the industry regulator. Don Cruickshank, the director general of OfTel, is proposing to abolish price controls on all BT services other than those for residential and small business customers. He also proposed to increase his ability to deal with anti-competitive behaviour by including a catch-all fair trading clause in BT's licence. BT is strongly opposed to this on the grounds that it will be unable to challenge Mr Cruickshank's decisions. The BT board has to decide whether to accept or reject the proposals by August. If it rejects, the matter will have to be resolved by the Monopolies Commission. OfTel switched away from

tel believed price caps here were no longer necessary because increasing and more efficient competition would force BT to continue to cut prices to keep market share. Mr Cruickshank said he had decided to load price cuts on the consumer market because residential customers deserved a better deal. Small to medium-sized domestic customers and small businesses still needed protection. He also proposed to increase his ability to deal with anti-competitive behaviour by including a catch-all fair trading clause in BT's licence. BT is strongly opposed to this on the grounds that it will be unable to challenge Mr Cruickshank's decisions. The BT board has to decide whether to accept or reject the proposals by August. If it rejects, the matter will have to be resolved by the Monopolies Commission. OfTel switched away from

caps on a broad range of BT activities after "a more thorough evaluation" of the state of competition for medium and large business markets. The new regime will cover 26 per cent of BT's revenues, compared with 64 per cent at present, and run until 2001. The main price cap will cut call charges for four out of five of BT's residential and small business customers. The group will have to cut their charges by 4.5 per cent before inflation — equivalent to 7.5 to 8 per cent under the present regime. Mr Cruickshank said that over the past six years these customers had seen prices fall by only 2.7 per cent at a time when BT's overall prices had come down by 7.5 per cent before inflation. Although BT's 20.5 million residential customers far outnumber its business subscribers, they contribute well under 25 per cent of group profit. The

top 20 per cent of high spending residential customers will not be covered by the new controls, though OfTel is seeking a BT assurance that no one's bill will rise in real terms for the same amount of usage. Mr Cruickshank also intends to investigate the high cost of calls from BT's network to mobile phone operators Vodafone and Cellnet, who, he suspects, might be exploiting their market power. BT welcomed Mr Cruickshank's decision to reduce regulation and to end all controls by 2001. But they thought it would be difficult to achieve the cost cutting needed to reduce residential prices at the rate OfTel is proposing. Peter McCarthy Ward, the BT executive in charge of the price review project, said the proposals were "a curate's egg". Analysis would have to be made before a recommendation to the board on acceptance, he added.

## Tesco adds 'own label' banking to loyalty card

Roger Cowe

**T**ESCO yesterday stepped up the supermarket war and sent tremors through the banking industry when it launched an enhanced version of the Clubcard loyalty scheme which will also operate as a highly competitive bank account. The "own-label banking" scheme is the first in the UK. It is modelled on an existing one operated by Carrefour in France, and is an extension of the "affinity card" concept which links an organisation such as a charity with a credit card company. Tesco's new Clubcard Plus is a "completely new way of paying for the weekly shopping bill. It allows customers to take control of their budget." Card holders will have to open a new bank account to receive a regular standing order intended to cover their monthly Tesco shopping. They will then be able to pay the checkout at the petrol station with the new Clubcard. It will also be possible to get an "overdraft", usually equal to the monthly payments into the account. Interest charges on the overdraft will be only 9 per cent per annum, while the annual interest rate paid on credit balances will be 5 per cent, making the account the most competitive

for both borrowing and saving of any such budget account. Banking facilities and administration will be handled by NatWest, and it will be possible to withdraw cash from the bank's electronic tills using the Clubcard Plus card. Tesco marketing director Tim Mason described the arrangement as "own label banking", drawing a comparison with Tesco's use of leading food manufacturers to produce everything from baked beans to cola. A NatWest spokesman described the arrangement as co-branding and said it would quickly be followed by a number of similar deals. "We do what we are good at; they do what they are good at. What we do best is processing, administering accounts and credit management," he said. He said that the attractive rates should be balanced against the narrow use of the card. It is unique to Tesco and does not have standard current account facilities such as standing orders or a cheque book. NatWest's best savings rate on an ordinary account is currently 2.9 per cent, while its standard overdraft rate is 17.5 per cent. As well as acting as a payment card, Clubcard Plus also offers the same way as the original Clubcard, building up points based on the amount spent, which are converted into money-off coupons every three months.

### How it works

- Set up a standing order to Clubcard Plus account
- Pay for groceries and petrol with card, attracting Clubcard points
- Pay in extra amounts as with any bank account
- Withdraw cash from NatWest tills or at the checkout
- Credit balances pay 5 per cent a year; borrow at 9 per cent

## Few crumbs of comfort for Camelot

Cakemakers rise up against lottery operator's defence. DAN ATKINSON reports

**C**AMELOT, the lottery operator, hit back yesterday after being roasted for months about easy profits it hasched out at an innocent bystander — the cake industry. Double-page national press advertisements, headed A Piece of Cake, compared a slice of Victoria sponge which unfavourably with a 10-point list of the blood, sweat and tears involved in making lottery profits — likely to be un-

velled today at £70 million for the current year. The lottery may be no cakewalk. But neither is making a piece of cake and Camelot may discover that in cakemakers it has picked on the wrong minority. One industry source yesterday waxed indignant about the care and skill involved in cake manufacture; in particular, he suggested, premises involved in baking cakes containing fresh cream have to meet

the sort of hygiene standards one would associate with the Papworth heart-transplant unit. Nor was Camelot's toll and trouble list all it appeared. Point one declared: "Every week we have to handle over 33 million transactions, sometimes over 30,000 a minute." Point two elaborated: "That means... a UK computer network bigger than that of the four main High Street banks put together."

Richard Tyson-Davies, of the bank clearing system Apacs, said of point two: "I wouldn't challenge it", but added that Camelot was not comparing like with like. Camelot's 33 million transactions look a little weedy compared with the weekly total of 173 million bank transactions. Friday lunchtime, the peak of cash-machine use, could see transactions approach Camelot's 30,000 a minute, Apacs said.

## BAe director seeks Government support to save 40,000 jobs

Chris Barrie  
Business Correspondent

**M**ORE than a quarter of the jobs in Britain's aerospace industry are set to disappear in the next 15 years, despite the prospect of healthier civil and military sales ahead, a British Aerospace director predicted yesterday. Mike Turner, chairman of BAe's commercial aerospace division and vice president of the Society of British Aerospace Companies, said the industry had already cut employment from 235,000 six years ago to 130,000, but the industry could hope to employ only 100,000 in future. Speaking at the SBAC launched a lobbying campaign to persuade the Government to do more to support the industry, Mr Turner indicated that only 60,000 would be left in UK aerospace companies if their plans for support went unheeded. Predicting that job losses were inevitable as the industry increased its productivity to compete in world markets, Mr Turner said government help was needed if UK firms were to halt the recent slide

in their market share from 13 per cent in 1980 to 9 per cent last year. Specifically, the SBAC wants the Government to place contracts with UK companies rather than buy military equipment "off the shelf" from overseas. Claiming that competition in military procurement had gone too far, Mr Turner said the SBAC wanted "some bias" in the placing of orders. The alternative was to see the US industry secure a monopoly in the supply of much aerospace equipment. Hefty investment in research and technology was needed. The US spent 16 times as much as the UK on new developments, while France and Germany outspent the UK by four times. Launch aid and competitive export finance were also needed. Norman Barber, chairman of Smiths Industries, said the industry was lobbying government "at the highest level". It is seeking a commitment for aid of £100 million, matched by industry, to finance three projects to demonstrate the value of new technologies.

## Facia shoe deal cobbled together

Pauline Springgett and Tony May

**F**ACIA, Stephen Hinchliffe's stricken retail empire, was dismembered further yesterday when three of its footwear businesses were put into administration. A deal was hammered out in the High Court which has given a lifeline to the 1,700 staff employed at 379 shops across the country. It saw accountants from Price Waterhouse take over three of Facia's shoe businesses — Wisebird, Facia Footwear and Citycan — whose retail outlets include Freeman Hardy Willis, Saxeone, and Curtess.

There had been a move by rival accountants KPMG, receivers to the bulk of Facia, to be appointed also as receivers to the shoe businesses. Companies in administration continue to operate as going concerns while those in receivership are more likely to be closed down and sold off in bits. Price Waterhouse will try to recover the £26 million owed to Sears, Britain's biggest speciality retailer, which sold the shoe shops to Facia last year. Facia, which for a time was second in size only to Littlewoods as a private retail business, collapsed last weekend with debts of £30 million.

KPMG, the accounting firm which is running the Facia master company on behalf of its main bank, United Mizrahi of Israel, said that Facia had lost £16 million in the past 16 weeks. Shopworkers' union Usdaw condemned the circumstances in which Sears had sold the companies to Facia. "It seems an utter shambles," said national officer Michael Gordon, who claimed that Sears had a moral obligation to take the shops back into its ownership and safeguard jobs and pension rights. PW said it was co-operating fully with rival accountants KPMG who were appointed at the weekend as receivers to

the parent company and several of the clothing subsidiaries, including Red or Dead and Contessa. Mr Hinchliffe retains the Bata shoe chain in Germany and Sock Shop in the UK. He was reported to be trying to raise £7 million to repay the Israeli bank and buy back the rest of his empire, but was unavailable for comment. KPMG said if Mr Hinchliffe wished to purchase anything, he would have to apply to them. Meanwhile, accountants Grant Thornton, who are receivers to Salisbury, Facia's luggage, leather goods and accessories chain, said they had already received 30 "expressions of interest".

## Barclays creates a private bank to attract rich foreigners

Pauline Springgett

**B**ARCLAYS Bank is to re-brand its service for wealthy clients with the introduction next month of Barclays Private Bank. The new bank will incorporate four of the services

aimed at richer customers — BZW Portfolio Management, the international private banking business, the UK private banking business and Barclays Private Trust. The new-look bank is likely to be seen as a challenge to Coutts, the up-market arm of the NatWest Group. However,

a spokeswoman for Barclays said the bank's established Premier Bank was probably a more direct competitor to Coutts. Barclays Private Bank will have about £2.5 billion of assets under management, with half its customers coming from overseas, mainly from

the Middle and Far East and Eastern Europe. Barclays said it was responding to increased demand from wealthy overseas customers. "The City of London is rapidly becoming recognised as the leading centre for private banking outside Switzerland," it said.

## Notebook Canny initiative threatens banks



Edited by Mark Milner

**W**ELCOME to own-label banking. That is what yesterday's announcement from Tesco amounts to. Shoppers may just see an extra twist to the Clubcard loyalty scheme, but behind that is a NatWest bank account and NatWest's account management expertise. It is no different in principle from putting a Tesco label on McVitie's biscuits, Cadbury's chocolate or Heinz baked beans (since the US group finally carved in last year and agreed to manufacture for the supermarkets).

Byatt's strictures, leaving the shares little changed on the day, there is an argument for saying that it is only the possibility of a takeover bid which is supporting the price. The second welcome arrival took the form of a departure, with the resignation of Tom Long, a director of the footwear group Scholl. Mr Long decided to go in protest against the terms of the remuneration package being offered to the incoming chairman. His move is a brave one. He is likely to come under fire from boardroom conservatives for breaking ranks, so publicly, on the sensitive issue of boardroom rewards. Even among those who believe that remuneration committees should exercise a restraining influence, there will be many who believe it should be done behind closed doors. Mr Long's resignation has not only brought the debate, after Cadbury and Greig finally hunkered into the open, he has also shown there is still some way to go. The results of lottery operator Camelot, due for publication this morning, may further underline the point.

### Keep talking

**B**RITISH Telecom's directors should think long and hard before taking any decision to reject the latest price controls and competition package from OfTel, the industry regulator. The package contains much of benefit to BT — a substantial reduction in regulation from next year, greater pricing freedom in the business market, where it makes most of its profits, and an end to price controls in the year 2001. The group is opposed to OfTel's plan for a catch-all licence clause outlawing anti-competitive behaviour. As a point of principle, it feels that the clause should be accompanied by a procedure for challenging OfTel's decision. If it is unable to stomach this part of the proposals, it has to reject the whole package. This would automatically result in a Monopolies Commission investigation, and months of uncertainty for its customers and shareholders, and others in the telecom industry. Both BT and OfTel believe that the ideal solution to the concerns about anti-competitive behaviour would be for the Government to implement key parts of European competition law. To date the Government has only published a consultation paper on this issue but is clearly moving in Europe's direction. As a result, there is a good chance that, if BT digs in its heels, the results of the ensuing Monopolies Commission investigation would quickly be overtaken by changes in general competition law. The anti-competitive clause may be unpalatable to BT, but its board would be foolish to make too big an issue of it. It should grab the greater freedom in the business market and offer a lower anasthetic price by encouraging still further use of the phone. As BT keeps telling us: "It's good to talk."

### Two cheers

**A** COUPLE of chickens came home to roost yesterday. They were long overdue, but nonetheless welcome. First, Ofwat's director-general, Ian Byatt, handed out a merited drubbing to Yorkshire Water over its handling of last summer's shortages. Mr Byatt dealt in more than harsh words. His decision to restrict Yorkshire Water's ability to raise prices will take a £40 million chunk out of the company's revenue stream over the next three years, while the performance targets he has set will cost an additional £65 million. The combination of the two is timely, and one hopes effective, reminder that utilities have duties to their customers as well as to their shareholders. Although the stock market shrugged off Mr

## Eagle Star swoops with policy to cover several bundles of joy

Jim Papworth

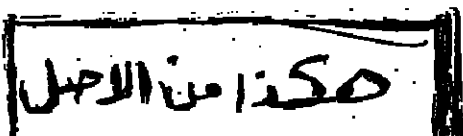
**I**NSURER Eagle Star is cashing in on the fact that expectant parents have an increasing chance of producing more than one bundle of joy with the launch of a "multiple birth insurance" policy. British mothers-to-be now have a one-in-75 chance of giving birth to twins, triplets or more compared with odds of one-in-39 a decade ago. In 1994 — the last year for which statistics are available — there were 8,451 sets of twins born in the UK, compared with 6,321 in 1984, and 280 sets of triplets, over three times as many as a decade before.

of treatment for infertility. Whatever the reason, multiple births have increased financial strain on parents' pockets. With a child's first five years costing an average £20,000 according to a recent report, expectant parents may well be attracted to an insurance policy which pays out a lump sum if they produce more than one mouth to feed. Faith Gallett, of the MBA, said: "We receive a lot of calls from people with a history of twins in the family asking if we know of any insurance policy. Until now the answer has been no, so we're delighted it's become available." The Eagle Star policy, only available through London-based broker Marcus Hearn, offers a maximum benefit of £3,000 which is doubled if more than two children are born.

### TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

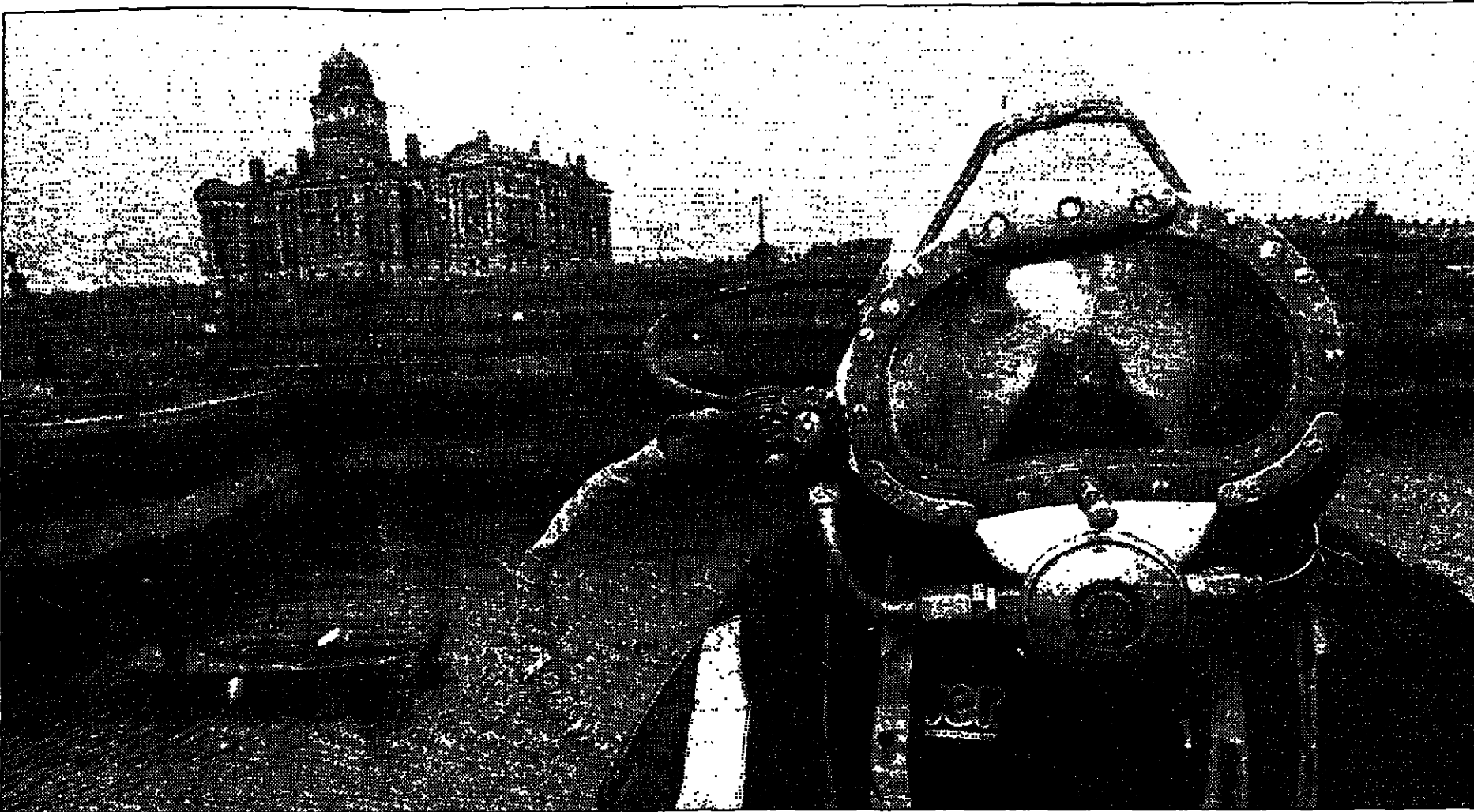
Australia 1.88	France 7.74	Italy 2.251	Singapore 2.197
Austria 16.10	Germany 2.29	Malta 0.540	South Africa 6.5
Belgium 47.04	Greece 385.50	Netherlands 2.975	Spain 152.75
Canada 2.077	Hong Kong 11.72	New Zealand 2.2240	Sweden 10.28
Cyprus 0.706	India 54.27	Norway 8.24	Switzerland 1.9879
Denmark 8.89	Ireland 0.9475	Portugal 227.25	Turkey 1.442
Finland 7.22	Israel 5.11	Saudi Arabia 5.80	USA 1.5775

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel).





Wales loses 'isolated' image as Anglo-French bridge over Severn improves road links



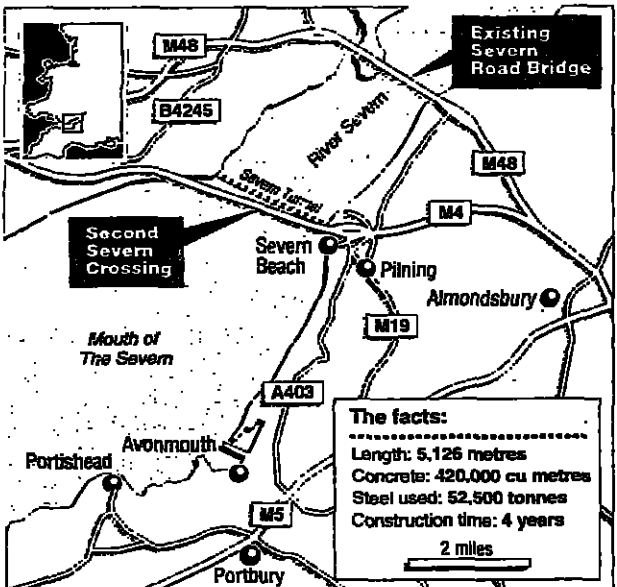
On the Waterfront... diver Nick Hugo at work in the Graving Dock that is to be filled in as part of the £20 million redevelopment at Barry

PHOTOGRAPH: JEFFREY MORGAN

Smooth crossing to prosperity

Geoffrey Gibbs

A MID tight security and a frenzy of royal ribbon-cutting an Anglo-French consortium will open a £330 million infrastructure project tomorrow. The Second Severn Crossing is expected to provide an important fillip to the economies of South Wales and England's South West. Completed on time and on budget by the Laing-GTM grouping, it will only knock one-and-a-half miles off the motorway journey from London to Cardiff. But business leaders in Wales are already talking confidently of the new link ridding the principality of the isolated image created by the hold-ups and occasional closures of the overburdened Severn Road Bridge. An economic impact assessment carried out by the Welsh Development Agency and Cardiff Business School estimates the enhanced motorway link could add 0.5 per cent to the growth rate of the Welsh economy between 1997 and 2002, bringing 1,300 new jobs in manufacturing, services and transport. The impressive, three-mile structure will be officially opened by the Prince of Wales



in three separate ceremonies at the centre and either end of the bridge itself. The new M49 link road to the bridge from the M5 at Avonmouth - due to open at the end of the month - will cut the distance between the Welsh capital and destinations in England's south-west by 13 miles and is already making an impact on business thinking in the region. Frozen-food supplier Brake Bros has announced plans to double the size of its Somerset base and local authorities in the county have joined forces to attract businesses to development sites near the M5. The cable-stayed bridge and its two multi-span approach viaducts boast several advantages over the 30-year-old Severn Road Bridge. There are 13 toll lanes as

opposed to eight on the original structure. While the old bridge offers two lanes in either direction the new crossing has three and a hard shoulder. And there is the innovative three-metre high windshield which should eliminate any closures caused by adverse weather. Elizabeth Haywood, Welsh director for the CBI in Cardiff, says the new crossing is "desperately needed" because of delays on the overburdened 1960s bridge maintain Wales' image of "sitting out there isolated and on the periphery". But she agrees that high toll levels could have an adverse impact on local businesses, particularly those involved in producing low-value, high-volume goods and needing to use the bridge for short distance journeys. A survey by Cardiff Business School for the BBC Wales' Week In, Week Out programme said growth prospects for Wales would be substantially better with a much lower toll and questioned whether the new link would have any impact on environmental problems in villages near the Severn and on the border. Previous research suggested that when Severn River Crossing (operators of both bridges) took control of

Barry's Waterfront project awaits trickle-down effect

Barry, once one of the world's largest coal ports and by its thriving neighbour, Cardiff, hopes that it will benefit from the promised "trickle down" benefits of the Second Severn Crossing, writes David Gou. William Hague, the Welsh Secretary, yesterday officially launched the Waterfront, a £20 million regeneration scheme for a dockland area. The work is being being carried out by Associated British Ports and the Welsh Development Agency - both already involved in the multi-billion-pound Cardiff Bay project. Waterfront, providing sites for property companies to develop up to 1,000 homes, shops and leisure facilities, was hailed by David Rowe-Beddo, WDA chairman, as "more than a cosmetic operation to clear away the legacy of past industrial activities". It was "major surgery bringing a new lease of life". Critics of such schemes argue that they fail to create productive, long-term jobs. But Mr Hague and his public-private sector partners insist that a regenerated Barry will, over time, be boosted by the impact on South Wales of the new bridge over the Severn. The old bridge and raised tolls in 1992 one thousand lorries a day stopped using it - half falling to make the journeys and others redirecting to small, rural routes. Injecting a note of sobriety, the Business School survey noted that the impact of one-way tolling combined with large toll increases for heavy goods vehicles meant that traffic levels had still not recovered to 1990 levels. High tolls, it argued, would continue to constrain Welsh economic development well into the new millennium. "Moreover, even a privately financed bridge built too soon implies considerable costs to the taxpayer, given that lengthy approach roads to the new bridge have been publicly financed, effectively subsidising the SRC monopoly."

Dalgety fears £25m profit drop in wake of BSE scare

Tony May DALGETY, the food company with a large animal feedstuffs operation, warned that the scare over "mad cow" disease and an unrelated instance of contamination at a Dutch pet food factory will cut up to £25 million off its profit this year. The group, which last year made a profit of £93.7 million on turnover of £1.9 billion, said it was facing "significant" costs to write off stock in its pet food business and reformulate them to meet new standards. It has also had to write off stock in its animal feed business, although it is expecting only a "modest" reduction in demand for animal feed. Its ingredients business has been hit by a fall in demand for beef-based products but it expects the decline to be offset by increased take-up of alternative products. Further costs have arisen through the actions taken to reformulate and reorganise supply to minimise the continuing effect of current trading restrictions "and meet customer preferences". Dalgety's pet food division has been affected by "an isolated instance" at its Dutch factory of suspected product contamination by "materials currently subject to an export ban". It said the Dutch operation had recalled suspect stock and written it off. Dalgety said that after taking into account the exceptional nature of these one-off events it expected at least to maintain its dividend of 22p a share in the current year. Beef sales have fallen by as much as 50 per cent after the Government said on March 20 that bovine spongiform encephalopathy - the "mad cow" disease that has infected some British herds since 1986 - might cause a fatal brain disease in humans. Sales are currently down by as much as 20 per cent.

Scholl director quits over chairman's pay

A DIRECTOR of footwear group Scholl yesterday created City history by resigning in protest at the remuneration package being offered to its incoming chairman, Stuart Wallis, who stands to gain £1 million over the next two years. In what is thought to be the first incident involving a main board resignation over executive rewards, Tom Long, a former finance director of tobacco and insurance combine BAT, left the footwear group immediately. Mr Long said he did not object to the £100,000 a year salary being offered to Mr Wallis, who was given a £2.5 million pay-off when Firos, the drugs company of which he was chief executive, was taken over last year. But he said the size of Mr Wallis's potential bonus was inappropriate for a company the size of Scholl. He argued that a non-executive chairman should not participate in a bonus scheme adding that, following the Greenbury recommendations, performance awards should be paid over three years. Mr Wallis was recently appointed chairman of Sheffield

Protests over remuneration prompted an instant departure from a boardroom yesterday. LISA BUCKINGHAM reports on a bonus scheme too far. Below, with SARAH WHITEBLOOM, she looks at more one-way bets

Forgemasters, which hit headlines for supplying steel tubes for the Iraqi supergun project, and is also head of the publishing group LPL, which staged a management buy-out from Lloyd's of London. A spokesman for Scholl, who insisted Mr Wallis would be a full-time executive chairman, admitted that Mr Long had quit in protest at the incentive scheme, which is thought to demand a profit improvement in line with market expectations. The fracas over remuneration at Scholl came as it emerged that Martin Sorrell, chief executive of advertising group WPP - a member of whose remuneration committee is Scholl chairman Gordon Stevens - earned almost £3 million in 1995 and was on target to earn almost £30 million over five years. Even though the remuneration package for Mr Sorrell was amended last year after a shareholder protest, his salary and short-term bonus rose by 12.5 per cent to £1.45 million. In addition, Mr Sorrell earned £877,000 from the company's long-term incentive plan and was given a £216,000 pension contribution. WPP's annual report disclosed that Mr Sorrell also gained £239,000 on the exercise of share options and was entitled to another £3.5 million of fees, payable in shares, not yet exercised. He was also granted 645 million shares - with a face value yesterday of £13 million - as part of the group's incentive scheme.

Incentive plans enhance scope for abuse

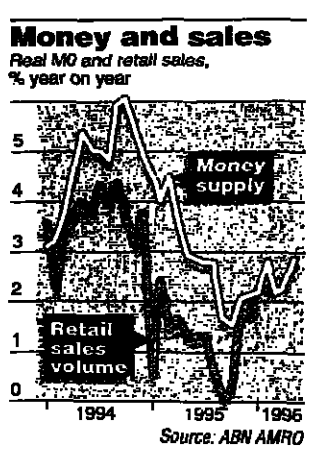
TOP companies are barely off the starting blocks in the attempt to link the pay of their executives with the returns available to investors. But remuneration consultants already warn that new-style, long term incentive plans (LTIPs) offer greater scope for abuse than the discredited share options they are designed to replace. Remuneration committees will be forced to bare sharp teeth if shareholders and the public are to be convinced that the drive to weld executives' financial fortunes to the success with which they do their jobs is not simply another one-way bet for the boardroom. LTIPs were given impetus by last year's Greenbury Committee report, which urged a greater linkage between boardroom rewards and those on offer to employees and investors. But, as with share option schemes, the worry is that they will offer potentially staggering share allocations for executives without suffi-

ciently tough performance criteria. The Guardian Index of Top Executive Pay reveals it is by no means unusual for directors to stand to double their salaries under the terms of the plan. And these longer-term (usually about three years) reward schemes are being installed on top of the more immediate gratification of annual cash bonuses. Paul Emerton, of the proxy voting agency, Manifest, also points out that shareholders are concerned at the possibility that they are being used to replace currently unprofitable option schemes. The difficulty for shareholders is that few companies have adopted standard performance criteria for their LTIPs. And because they are all starting from different points and are at a different stage of industrial maturity, what may turn out to be tax-free for one company could be a comparative dud for another. A study earlier this year by the New Bridge Street consul-

Pound rises in spite of stagnant exports

Dealers boost sterling as manufacturing declines, writes RICHARD THOMAS

FOREIGN exchange dealers gave the pound a fresh boost yesterday, brushing off news that stagnant exports had pushed Britain's manufacturing sector into its deepest recession since Black Wednesday. The Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, insisted the strengthening pound would "not be prejudicial" to prospects for UK factories. Speaking in Luxembourg, he said the recent rise was simply a "reasonable stabilisation of the exchange rate". In a surge of late buying, sterling rose by more than a penny against the mark to hit DM2.3750 by the tail-end of London trading or 20 pennings above its low this year. But there were fears in industry that the pound's strong run would spell further trouble for exporters, already hit by weakness in continental European economies. According to the latest snapshot of company buyers by the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS) published yesterday, manufacturers trimmed output, laid off staff and reduced stocks during May - in stark contrast to consumer confidence and a rejuvenated housing market. Peter Thomson, the CIPS director general, said: "This is a depressing survey. Whether or not this is the dusk before the dawn remains to be seen, but there is certainly no evidence for the rosy view of economic prospects held by the Chancellor and the pound is hardly helping." Although firms remain confident that growing household optimism and stronger retail sales will eventually filter down to industry, the CIPS survey showed the sharpest drop in overall activity since September 1992, just before the UK's ejection from the European exchange rate mechanism. Mr Thomson pointed to a slackening in demand for consumer goods, which has provided the only silver lining in recent downturn surveys, as particularly disappointing. The widening gulf between the manufacturing and consumer sides of the economy



News in brief

Hopes of debt deal boost Eurotunnel

SIR Alastair Morton will not be replaced when he retires from Eurotunnel later this year. He reiterated a pledge to stay on until the company reached a refinancing agreement with its creditor banks. Then the Anglo-French Channel tunnel operator will have Patrick Fonsolle as its sole executive chairman. Shares in Eurotunnel rose strongly in Paris on rumours that a deal on the group's £8 billion of debt might be close. Last week the French and British co-chairmen gave differing views on when they thought Eurotunnel could reach an agreement with its banking syndicate. - Tony May

WH Smith confirms job cuts

BILL Cockburn, chief executive of retailer WH Smith, confirmed that lay-offs will be announced within "a couple of weeks" but said the number would be less than the 1,000 reported in newspapers. Mr Cockburn indicated that, among other changes, the London headquarters would be streamlined and management layers removed. "It's important for any company to look closely at the head office when making changes," he said. "We're not just cutting costs by cutting people. We want to create a better organisational structure, less bureaucracy, fewer layers of management and a sharper focus on the customer." Reports that it planned to sell its 50 per cent stake in the Do-It-All home improvement chain were also speculation, he said, adding: "Our top priority is to make Do-It-All more profitable than in the past and consume less cash." - Bloomberg

More aid for Names sought

LLOYD'S of London said yesterday it would try to give more financial help to its hardest-hit investing Names. The move was welcomed by Names' action groups which have been threatening offer unless more assistance was given to financially ruined members. A Lloyd's spokesman said extra money was being sought from agents and other members of the insurance market. Lloyd's is planning to set up an arrangement which will give Names a guaranteed annual income. - Pauline Springett

Unigate's £42m US takeaway

UNIGATE took a further step in the disposal of its US restaurant assets yesterday with the sale of its Black-eyed Peas chain to DenAmerica Corp for £41.5 million. The British food manufacturer and distributor said it would take a charge of £36.5 million to write off goodwill and sales-related costs. Unigate said the loss it was making on the sale was offset by the £33.4 million gain from the earlier sale of its stake of nearly one-third of the Dutch foods firm Nutricia and Gulsipur. - Tony May

Avis in takeover talks

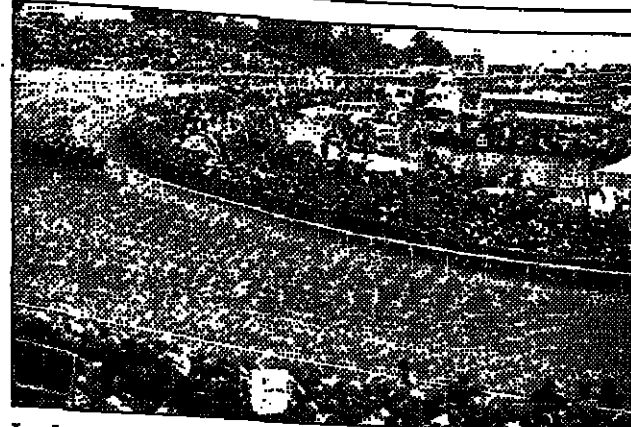
AVIS car hire, one of the biggest employee-owned companies in the US, yesterday confirmed that it had been approached about a deal possibly worth more than \$1 billion. Avis was holding about a 10 per cent stake in the company. The deal had been held in confidence but press reports said it had been holding preliminary talks with HFS, a franchiser that has been snapping up hotel and property companies. - Mark Tran in New York

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Joe Miller 1996

SPORTS NEWS 13
Tompkins yard shrug off Even Top scare



Looks familiar... the scene at Tattenham Corner

Frank Keating says the clash with Euro 96 may do the great classic, which this year features its first woman jockey, no harm

Derby banks on Saturday double

LAST year that tarnished heirloom of family silver, the Epsom Derby, switched from a timeless Wednesday slot to Saturday afternoon in an effort to restore its ancient lustre. The move was not considered the overwhelming hoped-for success.

Oh, yeah, so what? said the punters, who might only possibly have glanced at the strange-sounding nags on the telly before driving off for tea at the garden centre or DIY emporium. The Derby's second weekend experiment comes next Saturday afternoon. It clashes with the opening ceremony and England's first match of Euro 96. When United Racecourses planned its move to Saturdays, it had no remote idea that England would be awarded the championship.



Classic setting... A huge accidental bonus is that the 1996 Derby is lining up to be the most interesting in years'

that very afternoon a few miles away all of 61,000 chose to watch a seven-a-side rugby tournament at Twickenham. If 61,000 turn up to Epsom next Saturday, we'll settle for that. His Gold Cup day at Cheltenham is packed by over 60,000; so is the Grand National; the calendar's most popular is Ladies' Day on Royal Ascot's Thursday with over 70,000.

TV audience. And if together we can push it up to, say, 15 million viewers, we can be delighted with our 40 per cent share and football can get whatever they're aiming for, and we're both feeling hunky-dory. Gillespie agrees the race might have rediscovered its more homespun character: 'Yes, look at the horses' names. It could be a hurdle race at Hereford. Then there's your personalities which people actually care about, your Tompkins, Kelleways, and McMahoons, the great Ms Greaves and, although he's Italian and riding a Middle East-owned horse, that natu-

with the leading firms yesterday, but it would be no surprise to see him take a walk in the betting after this interruption, however slight. There were no surprise withdrawals at the five-day stage for Saturday's race with 22 standing their ground. Dr Massini is 4-1 favourite with Ladbrokes and Coral, and 9-2 with the Tote. Hill's bracket Michael Stoute's colt at 8-2 with Glory Of Dancer, and they shortened Shamit from 14-1 to 12's. Frankie Dettori announced at Leicester yesterday that he is almost certain to partner the John Gosden-trained Shantou, a 66-1 shot with Hill's but only 40-1 with Ladbrokes.

This recent Sandown winner is unlikely to figure in the shake-up, but one outsider who could be over-priced is St Mawes, at 25-1. Second to Storm Trooper over an inadequate trip at Newmarket first time out this season, he was unseated by the John Gosden-trained Shantou, a 66-1 shot with Hill's but only 40-1 with Ladbrokes. This recent Sandown winner is unlikely to figure in the shake-up, but one outsider who could be over-priced is St Mawes, at 25-1. Second to Storm Trooper over an inadequate trip at Newmarket first time out this season, he was unseated by the John Gosden-trained Shantou, a 66-1 shot with Hill's but only 40-1 with Ladbrokes.

will take some beating because he is better over six furlongs," predicted the informant. There were doubles for Seb Sanders and Frankie Dettori at Leicester yesterday, but controversy surrounded Pat Eddery's only winner on the card, Parsa, in the Old Derby Handicap. The Leicester stewards held an inquiry into the improved form shown by the John Dunlop-trained filly compared to her previous performance at Windsor on May 13, when she finished 14th of 18.

After interviewing Eddery and Dunlop's representative, Robert Hamilton, who said the horse had been unseated by the course and hampered by a faller, they decided they did not have enough evidence to conclude the inquiry and referred the matter to Portman Square for further investigation.

Anzio kicks off the week in group style for the Kelleways

GAY KELLEWAY, confident that her father Paul will win the Derby with Glory Of Dancer, kicked off her first group with Anzio at Leopardstown yesterday, writes Ron Cox. Nearer last than first going into the final furlong, the well-backed 7-2 favourite was driven through a gap late by Roy Cochrane to beat Jim Bolger's Alleacht by the minimum margin in the Ballyogan Stakes.

Pontefract with form guide

Table containing race results and form guides for Pontefract, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Brighton runners and riders

Table containing race results and form guides for Brighton, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Results

Table containing race results for various tracks, including Leicester, Hamilton, and others.

Advertisement for RACELINE featuring Richard Dunwoody and contact information for Pontefract and Brighton.



Tennis

Stephen Bierley sees the holder lose his iron grip on a day of surprises and sadness at the French Open

Stich times it right to sew up Muster

THE world did not exactly turn upside down, but Roland Garros certainly teetered on its axis yesterday. Thomas Muster, the French Open champion, was unthinkably beaten on his cherished red clay by Michael Stich, and there were heavy defeats for Goran Ivanisevic and Marcelo Rios, both highly fancied to have reached the quarter-finals.

Muster, the world No. 2, has been all but omnipotent on clay for more than a year. Stich, in stark contrast, has barely played any tennis since an operation for ankle ligament trouble last March. The German nearly did not come to Paris. After losing in the second round of the Italian Open he suggested his main aim was to get fully fit for Wimbledon, the only Grand Slam tournament he has ever won.

Ivanisevic defeats are like scarce migrant birds; they arrive unexpectedly and are unpredictable. Karbacher had beaten the Croatian on clay three years ago, but that was in a relatively insignificant tournament. The 28-year-old German has no sort of record in Grand Slam tournaments. But there were extenuating circumstances. Ivanisevic had developed a blister on his left foot and was clearly hampered. He fell over early on and looked uncomfortable; not that he ever loses a bundle of unmitigated gaiety.



Joy unconfined... Stich after upsetting the odds in Paris

beyond the fourth round here, the highlight of his career being his US Open final appearance in 1993 when he lost to Sampras. If the crowd were with Pioline virtually to a man, woman, child and dog, then nobody was with Rios, least of all himself, and he went down rather tamely 6-4, 6-1, 6-2. If sentiment alone could have lifted Edberg to victory then Rosset would not have

Leeds set to cash in on share boom

LEEDS UNITED will be valued at £16 million when floated on the stock market this month. The club will be merged with Caspian Group, controlled by Richard Thompson, the owner of Queens Park Rangers. The deal was masterminded by Chris Akers, a former Swiss Bank Corporation corporate financier who is now chairman of Caspian which already has a listing on the stock market where it is valued at £20.2 million. Caspian wants Leeds as part of its plan to build up a portfolio of interests in football, rugby and other sports. The deal looks particularly well-timed as the City added millions to the value of soccer clubs yesterday.

Cantona says 'alloy Hello

ERIC CANTONA, who used to be notorious for letting his feet do all the talking - both on and off the pitch - took another giant first step towards the media spotlight yesterday, by speaking to Hello! magazine. Cantona, who used to feign ignorance of English to avoid interviews, spoke about the Crystal Palace lout whose racial abuse inspired him to leap into the crowd in January last year. "The hooligan? His behaviour shows he's not all together," said Cantona, interviewed while relaxing with his lover, wife Isabelle and their charming children Raphael and Josephine at his parents' converted farmhouse in the Alpes de Haute Provence. "I don't want to talk too much about him, that would give him too much importance. He's one of those anti-social types who are driven by a need to provoke. It's the only way to have people talk about them, to exist, to pretend with their pals in the pubs when they don't sell their stories to the tabloids."

John Duncan on the Frenchman finally breaking his silence

Home thoughts from abroad... Cantona hopes his community service brought some light to the lives of the children he taught. This kind of experience I react the same way. First I feel like going away, forgetting it all, escaping. I'm very quickly pride and maybe even a deep sense of honour urges me to take action. "Then I can stand tall and face up to it. I'm not that easily beaten. Then you have the kids to keep in mind," he added. Cantona also said that his punishment helped him in his decision to stay in England - he spent the 120 hours coaching children from less well-off areas of Manchester. "The easiest part was the community service. Quite unexpectedly I found myself going beyond the stipulated commitment. I devoted myself to these kids, which has improved the rapport with the club. I hope I did bring some light into their lives. "As for United, you know we made up for it this year. I'd set my heart on it. I owed it to them."

Everton to sell Nigerian

DANIEL AMOKACHI's spell in English football may well end this summer with a move to France. Everton's Nigerian international forward is wanted by Marseille and the Uefa Cup finalists Bordeaux. Both have indicated a willingness to meet the asking price of around £2 million. Amokachi joined Everton from Club Brugge in a £3 million deal 22 months ago but has failed to hold down a regular first-team place at Goodison Park. Although Everton's manager Joe Royle believes Amokachi has still to realise a rich potential, he will now sanction his sale as he tries to assemble a squad capable of launching a serious assault on the Premiership title. After recently agreeing to pay Leeds United £3.5 million for the Wales international midfielder Gary Speed, Royle has been told he must trim his senior squad before he can move back into the transfer market. Amokachi, Everton's first black footballer in almost 20 years, appeared as a substitute in the 1995 FA Cup final win over Manchester United. Middlesbrough are on course to become the first Premiership club this summer to announce a season-ticket sell-out. Some 26,000 fans renewed their tickets before last Saturday's deadline and the club is confident a few hundred remaining tickets will be sold this week. Middlesbrough have yet to decide whether to fill in two corners of the Riverside Stadium to increase capacity to 35,000. Tranmere are to resume Friday night league games at Prenton Park after two seasons in which their gates have suffered through Saturday clashes with Liverpool and Everton home matches.

West Ham are confident over £2m record deal

Russell Thomas reports on a Romanian raid. WEST HAM'S managing director Peter Storrle is confident that a club-record £2 million deal for Florin Raduciu will go ahead, even though the Romanian striker yesterday said he knew nothing about such a move. After the 26-year-old Raduciu flew into Twickenham airport with Romania's Euro 96 squad, he said: "I don't know about these stories. I haven't spoken to West Ham." But later Storrle explained: "We have an option agreement with the club [Spain] and have agreed not to speak to him until after Euro 96 so he can concentrate on that." What is certain is that Raduciu wants to leave Espanyol. He joined the Barcelona-based club from Milan after the 1994 World Cup but has since indicated a desire to play in the Premiership. Storrle watched Raduciu help Romania to a 3-1

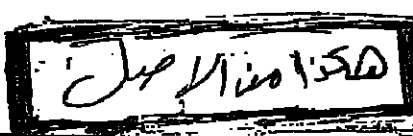
Results

- Rugby League: STATE OF ORIGIN New South Wales 18 Queensland 6 (HNSW lead series 2-0). GOLF: SWEDISH AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP (Tombura) Fredriksson leads by 1 stroke. 72: K. Ferro (Almohed), 73: G. Hay (Parsons), C. Watson (East Rutherford), 74: M. Hovgaard (Hovgaard), 75: G. Storrle (McCarty) (Royal North Devon), G. McMahon (McMahon), 76: J. Thompson (Thompson), 77: M. Smith (Smith), 78: B. Wynn (Wynn), 79: M. Urrutia (Urrutia), 80: J. Chavallier (Chavallier), 81: P. Dwyer (Dwyer), 82: P. Farrow (Farrow), 83: Bunch (Bunch), 84: Andrews (Andrews), 85: B. Boney (Boney), 86: L. Lander (Lander), 87: De Villiers (De Villiers), 88: M. Ellis (Wright), 89: K. Kelly (Kelly), 90: P. Casey (Burth), 91: A. Asanovic (Asanovic), 92: P. Rees (Rees), 93: G. Storrle (Storrle), 94: J. Jenkins (Jenkins), 95: M. Skarke (Skarke), 96: M. Cooper (Cooper), 97: M. Smith (Smith), 98: G. Graham (Graham), 99: P. Lawrie (Lawrie), 100: D. Dwyer (Dwyer), 101: R. Berman (Berman), 102: R. Berman (Berman), 103: M. King (King), 104: M. King (King), 105: M. King (King), 106: M. King (King), 107: M. King (King), 108: M. King (King), 109: M. King (King), 110: M. King (King).

Motor Sport

- ACROPOLIS RALLY (Aberystwyth): Overall standings (second day). 1. C. McRae (GB) Subaru Impreza 5th 20m 11sec, 2. T. M. Ainslie (Fin) Mitsubishi Lancer 4th 21m 41sec, 3. C. Sainz (Spa) Ford Escort Cosworth 1st 21m 41sec, 4. S. Eriksson (Swe) Subaru Impreza 2nd 21m 41sec, 5. P. Luthi (Swi) Subaru Impreza 3rd 21m 41sec, 6. B. Thery (Bel) Ford Escort Cosworth 4th 21m 41sec, 7. F. Levy (Bel) Toyota Celica 5th 21m 41sec, 8. G. Paganetti (Ita) Subaru Impreza 6th 21m 41sec, 9. A. Marnett (GB) Ford Escort Cosworth 7th 21m 41sec. EVENING RACING: THURSDAY: 6.45 (10): 1. CLARA BLISS, M. Toubou (13-2), 2. Castagnone (14-1), 3. Paul Francou (15-1), 4. 12-4 fav. Blanche Rock 10 ran, 11. 1. B. Mouton (17-20), 12. 20. 13. 20. 14. 20. 15. 20. 16. 20. 17. 20. 18. 20. 19. 20. 20. 20. 21. 20. 22. 20. 23. 20. 24. 20. 25. 20. 26. 20. 27. 20. 28. 20. 29. 20. 30. 20. 31. 20. 32. 20. 33. 20. 34. 20. 35. 20. 36. 20. 37. 20. 38. 20. 39. 20. 40. 20. 41. 20. 42. 20. 43. 20. 44. 20. 45. 20. 46. 20. 47. 20. 48. 20. 49. 20. 50. 20. 51. 20. 52. 20. 53. 20. 54. 20. 55. 20. 56. 20. 57. 20. 58. 20. 59. 20. 60. 20. 61. 20. 62. 20. 63. 20. 64. 20. 65. 20. 66. 20. 67. 20. 68. 20. 69. 20. 70. 20. 71. 20. 72. 20. 73. 20. 74. 20. 75. 20. 76. 20. 77. 20. 78. 20. 79. 20. 80. 20. 81. 20. 82. 20. 83. 20. 84. 20. 85. 20. 86. 20. 87. 20. 88. 20. 89. 20. 90. 20. 91. 20. 92. 20. 93. 20. 94. 20. 95. 20. 96. 20. 97. 20. 98. 20. 99. 20. 100. 20. 101. 20. 102. 20. 103. 20. 104. 20. 105. 20. 106. 20. 107. 20. 108. 20. 109. 20. 110. 20. 111. 20. 112. 20. 113. 20. 114. 20. 115. 20. 116. 20. 117. 20. 118. 20. 119. 20. 120. 20. 121. 20. 122. 20. 123. 20. 124. 20. 125. 20. 126. 20. 127. 20. 128. 20. 129. 20. 130. 20. 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Cricket

Captain makes a stand

David Hopps at Grace Road

EFFIGIES of Mohammad Ashraff were burned in the holy city of Amritsar yesterday. It is a fairly common occurrence when India lost to Sri Lanka in the World Cup semi-final, they burned them when he left his wife, and they will probably burn them if the Indian captain has a bad net before the start of the Edgbaston Test.

Nevertheless, protests in the Punjab have reflected widespread sympathy, not solely among Sikhs, for the disaffected batsman Navjot Singh Sidhu, who walked out of the tour in protest at being left out of the Indian team for the third Test at Old Trafford. Sidhu announced his international retirement, although he has already suggested that he might reconsider.

Denunciation was loud enough for Ashraff, a Muslim, to seek to bring the matter to a close yesterday. He hinted that he would have no objection to Sidhu returning to the Indian side again under his captaincy, and rejected implausible allegations that he laughed at Sidhu when informing him that he had been dropped, and that his captaincy had become increasingly aloof.

"Nearly all the retirements recently have been on a very sad note," he said after the tourists' match against Lancashire was abandoned as a draw at lunchtime. "You should gracefully. To grumble reflects badly on your country."

Azharuddin dismissed suggestions that his captaincy is under pressure. But Inderjit Bhindra, president of the Punjab Cricket Association, as well as the Indian board, is closely aligned to Sidhu. Sidhu also draws some popularity from India's second World Cup defeat against Sri Lanka, in the semi-final in Calcutta; Sidhu was the only Indian player who warned against the inadvisability of batting second on a newly laid pitch. "This unnecessary controversy is only serving to detract from our primary task which is to win the forthcoming Test series," Azharuddin added.



Ten left and counting... Ramprakash's direct hit from cover-point runs out Stemp and clinches the match for Middlesex

Northamptonshire v Warwickshire

Pollock and Warwickshire hit their stride

Mike Selvey in Northampton

THERE was little doubt, barring bad weather, that Warwickshire were going to make short work of completing a comfortable win yesterday. But a nine-wicket margin, achieved a little more than an hour before lunch, represented an astonishing turn-around in fortune. Before lunch on Friday, when Dougie Brown was bowled by Paul Taylor, Warwickshire were floundering at 118 for five - 106 ahead - whether the game would struggle into the final day. That Warwickshire recovered in such emphatic style is proof positive that self-confidence, a touch of arrogance and a ruthless competitive edge are essential ingredients as basic ability in producing a winning team.

On paper there is little to choose between the two sides, but when push comes to shove Warwickshire have proved themselves to be achievers while the opposite applies to Northamptonshire. Maximum points from the match put Warwickshire back on track after a slow start while Northamptonshire are winless after four matches and glued to 17th place. Rob Bailey and John Emburey, the new captain and coach respectively, will have their work cut out to gather the individual talents into a unit. The game was decided by the stand of 194 between Andy Moles and Shaun Pollock that not only took Warwickshire to within a couple of runs of the Northamptonshire first

innings total but was also the precursor to an unexpected lead of 133. But there was value beyond mere runs: with every minute of the 480 that Moles spent at the crease the Northamptonshire ballroom deflated and, by the time they batted again, there was nothing left. The Warwickshire bowlers found them to be easy pickings. If there was to be any faint hope for Northamptonshire yesterday it would firstly have to come from the unbeaten pair Tony Penberthy and David Ripley - who came together at 89 for seven on Saturday evening and were still there at the close having added 59 - and then from a Curtly Ambrose with the ball stoked. It was not to be, however, and the innings lasted only 14 more overs. Forty two was not a challenging target. An-

brose bowled just one over and the game was finished in 24 minutes. Wasim Khan, a first-ball victim on Friday, was unbeaten on 32. Two of the remaining three Northamptonshire wickets had fallen to Pollock, including Penberthy for 43 and Paul Taylor for a duck. Penberthy had been dropped in the slips by the juggling combination of Brown and Dominic Ostler but two balls later he edged to Keith Piper before departing a disgruntled fellow. Three for 49 in the second innings gave Pollock six wickets in the match as well as a century. There are signs that after an indifferent county start - he had taken seven wickets in three matches - he is picking up. When he began his Test career last winter Al Bacher, the managing director of the United Cricket Board of

South Africa, pointed out how many heads Pollock had cracked in domestic cricket, and there is no doubt that he has a dangerous bouncer. But just as he got his priorities wrong in his first Test at Centurion Park (bowling with his bollocks rather than his brain, as someone said at the time) so he has on English county pitches. Sixteen years ago his fellow countryman Vincent van der Bijl came to Middlesex and for a while bowled well enough without claiming scalps. His natural hard-wicket length was too short but he adapted, up with 85 dismissals in his first season, 49 of them bowled or leg before. A phone call from Warwickshire to South Africa might be the best couple of quid they spend for a while.

County Championship Middlesex v Yorkshire

Yorkshire go out blazing

Paul Weaver at Lord's

MIDDLESEX won an heroic match here yesterday, taking the last six Yorkshire wickets for 28 runs in six overs. There were 10 balls remaining, Yorkshire, looking to go top of the table, were equally courageous. Like The Windmill and Mr Patel's corner shop they refused to look in as many balls their target looked quite fanciful. There was much good cricket and a few belly-laughs as well, particularly when Mike Gatting's angry exhortations echoed around the ground's empty stands - his black looks and cross words mostly directed towards his phalanx of fielders who at times patrolled the short Grandstand boundary like the Keystone Cops. Middlesex appeared assured of an altogether more comfortable victory when they scored 447 in their first innings and had Yorkshire 162 for nine before a last-wicket stand of 113 between Peter Hartley and Stemp. Last-wicket stands can change matches, as Devon would ruefully testify. It was South Africa's 10th-wicket pair in Cape

Town who finally drove a glum Raymond Illingworth into his Farnley bunker with his ghostwriter. Angus Fraser was one of the unsuccessful bowlers at Newlands on that January day, just as he was here on Saturday. But yesterday, with Phil Tufnell (four for 106), he bowled his side to victory. He has lost over a stone (given, presumably, to Gatting, who now looks a very wide mid-on) and as he took three Yorkshire wickets showed some of his old zip. Gatting's teasing declaration set Yorkshire 344 to win. They resumed yesterday morning on 14 for nothing, needing a further 330 from a minimum of 96 overs. Yorkshire chase totals on a low heat before the start of the gas with the depth of their batting. At lunch they were 103 for two and needed 241 from 63 overs. At tea they were 192 for three, needing another 152 from 61 and with Michael Bevan, supported by Craig White, halfway through an outstanding century. When White hit Tufnell for a big six over square-leg it brought the score to 255 for three and the chase was really on. At that point the rain came, little more than a sprinkled blessing, but enough to rob Yorkshire of four vital overs. The target was now 89 from 16 and Yorkshire struggled to maintain the asking rate. White was caught attempting to clump Fraser over and, at the distant Tavern boundary and, at 294, Bevan was caught behind off the same bowler for an admirable 107 from 183 balls, with 11 fours and a sweet six off Richard Fay with which he reached his 50. All Yorkshire guns were still blazing as the water crept over the Flimsoll Line.

Cork pops the Surrey bubble

DOMINIC CORK produced some timely England form at The Oval yesterday to frustrate Surrey and earn Derbyshire an unlikely draw and 10 championship points. A gritty, unbroken last-wicket stand of 74 between Cork (83) and Paul Aldred (who made seven carrying an injured wrist) pulled Derbyshire back from the brink at 172 for nine. The visitors finished on 246 after they had been set 354 to win off what turned out to be 65 overs. They were helped when Martin

Bicknell, who had taken five for 17 in nine overs before tea, was unable to return after the interval because of a groin strain. At New Road, the Worcestershire captain Tom Moody completed his century this season but interruptions by rain made a draw with Hampshire inevitable. Inclement weather also brought about draws at Old Trafford between Lancashire and Gloucestershire, and at Trent Bridge between Nottinghamshire and Durham.

Mr Motivator's moment of truth

continued from page 16 published up-and-at-'em audio tape full of Jerusalem, Churchill's speeches and the like. "I sometimes wonder if people think we just play a lot of music," he said. "We've prepared thoroughly, studying the weaknesses of the Indian players, both in the way they play and in their psychological make-up. We also have some secret code signals that might come up once a season, but might take us a while to help us win a Test. Six weeks ago, everybody was talking about Tendulkar. I said to them: 'What about Hick, what about Thorpe, what about Albert?' We have an obligation to give people a message of stability. We are not here to knock people, but help talented players achieve success." Lloyd is aware that Test cricket is a different challenge, that he must adapt his pumped-up style. But he remains optimistic: our batsmen can play their bowlers with a stick of rhubarb; our bowlers can all bowl a jaeda. It has been taken into hospital with a mild stroke, and it's been a while since he saw me in the air. Watson won 46, has now won 38 Test matches, including eight major championships, but had played 140 tournaments without success since the Nabsco. When he hit his second 150 at the last, and knew that he had two puts from there to win, he covered the last 180 yards waving both fists in the air. "It was like walking down the fairway at Pebble Beach in 1982 (when he won the US Open) and like Turnberry in 1977 (when he won the Open)," he said. Jack Nicklaus, who designed and owns the Memo-

Golf Watson swaps yips for yippees

David Davies

TOM WATSON, for nine years and most afflicted by the "yips", won the Memorial Tournament, one of the US Tour's most prestigious prizes, on Sunday. It was his first victory in the United States since 1987, when he won the Nabisco Tour Championship. He emphatically disproved golf's most enduring adage concerning the yips; that once you've had them, you've got them. He even survived a missed putt from 30 inches on the first green as he compiled a final round of 70, for a 14-under-par total of 274, to beat David Duval by two shots and win \$209,000. "God, it feels so good to win again," said Watson. "Now I can't wait for the US Open. Next week, I just can't wait. He dedicated the win to his father, Ray. "He has just been taken into hospital with a mild stroke, and it's been a while since he saw me in the air. Watson won 46, has now won 38 Test matches, including eight major championships, but had played 140 tournaments without success since the Nabsco. When he hit his second 150 at the last, and knew that he had two puts from there to win, he covered the last 180 yards waving both fists in the air. "It was like walking down the fairway at Pebble Beach in 1982 (when he won the US Open) and like Turnberry in 1977 (when he won the Open)," he said. Jack Nicklaus, who designed and owns the Memo-

Scoreboard

Table with multiple columns listing cricket matches, teams, and scores. Includes sections for Lancashire v Gloucestershire, Northamptonshire v Warwickshire, Middlesex v Yorkshire, and various county matches.

Rugby League Old Bull Cordle to face France

Paul Fitzpatrick

WALES have brought back Gerald Cordle, the Bradford winger currently playing with South Wales in the Second Division, for tomorrow's European Championship opener against France at Carcassonne. At 35, Cordle's inclusion can scarcely be viewed as a progressive step by the Wales coach Clive Griffiths. But then Griffiths does not have much choice at present. Since Wales reached the semi-finals of the World Cup last October, four players - Jonathan Davies, Jonathan Griffiths, Adrian Hadley and Phil Ford - have returned to union while another, Scott Quinnell, is about to do so. Scott Gibbs, Kevin Ellis, Allan Bateman, Kelvin Skerrett and Richie Eyles were unavailable and yesterday came

Sailing Coutts one win away from scooping the Brut jackpot

Bob Fisher in San Francisco

RUSSELL COUTTS, the America's Cup-winning skipper from New Zealand, took the Brut Cup of San Francisco by defeating Morgan Larson 3-0 in the final. By winning two successive grand prix regattas, Coutts stands to collect a £106,000 bonus - the biggest cash prize in sailing - if he takes one of the three remaining events in the series. Coutts led the first match from start to finish, but was only half a boat clear in Larson's smarter start. The third race proved an anti-climax with Coutts winning easily. Coutts had defeated Paul Cayard in the fifth race of their semi-final, after Larson had disposed of Ed Baird, the world champion, in three successive races.

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Belfry to host Ryder Cup 2001

THE Belfry will host the Ryder Cup in 2001, the fourth time it has been played there, but over £1 million will be spent on the course beforehand, writes David Davies. Changes will be made to the early holes, notably the 3rd, 4th and 5th, while the short 12th will also get some attention. Extra spectator mounds will also be put into place. Jose-Maria Olazabal has withdrawn from this week's English Open and next week's US Open at Oakland Hills due to rheumatoid arthritis in his feet.

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# SportsGuardian

## The law according to Lloyd

**On Englishness**  
English reserve even spreads to some of the players. I had to push some of them out on to the balcony during the Texacos to receive the applause. I said: 'Go on, milk it, you deserve it'.

**On the summer**  
We've prepared thoroughly, studying the weaknesses of the Indian players. We also have some secret code signs, signals that might just come up once a season, but might take us a wicket that helps to win a Test match.

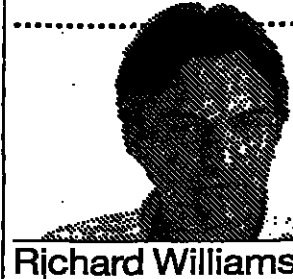
**On coaching**  
Communication and motivation is a big part of coaching.

**On the Lloyd way**  
A lot of conversations involving Ily and Atherton begin with a conclusion. They both like to state facts. There's not always much room for debate after that. I prefer to begin with a question and encourage people to work things out for themselves.



No more reading the riot act ... Lloyd shares his 'remarkable enthusiasm' with England's pace bowler Peter Martin. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

## Flight record that got lost in the drink



Richard Williams

**T**HE CYNICAL view of the strange affair of Flight SX 251 is that if you put a man who runs a drinking club in charge of a football team, then you shouldn't be too surprised if the football team turns into a drinking club.

And if you then put the man who runs the drinking club in charge of the investigation into the behaviour of the football team, you should not expect a verdict that would satisfy Tomas de Torquemada.

According to the Venables Inquiry — and having composed that phrase, I am now picking myself up off the floor in a state of disbelieving hilarity — it is the team we are talking about. Collective responsibility. *Nostra culpa*. Or possibly *coosa nostra*.

Like many people, I have some experience of schoolboy behaviour, including the tactical use of the law of *omerta* (otherwise known as not sneaking). And what I remember is that the best way to get out of messes like this one — the burnt-out bicycle shed, the superglued lock of the headmaster's study door, the dead sheep lying on a Welsh hillside after a cadet corps exercise involving the unpermitted use of automatic weapons — is for everyone to own up.

What can the authorities do, faced with a couple of dozen culprits? Chuck you all out? Of course not. To visit a punishment appropriate to the individual on the group as a whole would be to inflict an unacceptable level of damage on the institution itself. So they impose a mass detention, deliver a stiff talking-to, perhaps send a circular to the parents. Anything stronger, and people might start getting into their heads the dangerous idea that discipline was breaking down.

Not only is the blanket confession good for the culprits, it is also good for the authorities. You, the schoolboys, are dimly aware of that. So you all own up, and breathe again. Of course the responsibility is collective. But it is a lot more collective than was admitted in the Football Association's statement yesterday. If the charge sheet ends with the name of the last member of the England playing squad, then it

must certainly begin with those of MILLICHIP, Sir Bert, and KELLY, Graham. From the Flaming Lamborghini to the smoking screw-driver, this has been the story of a failure of supervision. First, the failure of the FA to look beyond expediency in selecting the man for the job. Then the failure to take it away from him. And the failure, having thus doubly failed, to compensate for the reduction in his responsibilities.

When Venables was appointed he was given the title of coach rather than manager, implying a division between technical and pastoral duties. The subtext was the existence in the FA's mind of a doubt about his fitness for certain tasks off the field. But who, in that case, was to fulfil the residual functions, such as ensuring that the players didn't spend their time pouring lethal cocktails down each other's throats and allowing Page 3 girls to rip the sponsors' shirts from their backs while representatives of the British press stood outside waiting to buy the Polaroids?

When the coach's appointment was made, the FA also installed a new PR man to tend the image of the incoming regime. The way things turned out, they should have hired a matron.

I CAN'T entirely blame the players — individually or collectively — for behaving like naughty schoolboys in the China Jump Bar and on Flight SX 251. They are the products of their society, and if you walk around the Soho or Big Market or Nottingham's Slab Square this Friday night you won't see much different. I blame the shocking naivety of Millichip and Kelly, who are genuine football fans and natural-born bureaucrats but have no gift for moral dilemmas, for sending them on this ludicrously misconceived trip in the first place, and for then failing to ensure that they behaved themselves.

England close ranks, page 3

## Mr Motivator's moment of truth

As England meet at Edgbaston today to prepare for Thursday's first Test against India David Hopps meets the new spirit in the camp, the enthusiastic coach David Lloyd

**S**UCCESS was all about the five As, said David Lloyd, brimming with his usual enthusiasm. 'Agree, assess, assist, aim, apply and ... blow me, I can't remember the other one.' India take note: England will go into the first Cornhill Test at Edgbaston on Thursday with a fatal lack of preparation, and it begins with the first letter of the alphabet.

Lloyd can be grateful that he has only to concern himself with a single A. Judging by the drunken shenanigans on the Cathay Pacific plane that returned them from Hong Kong, some members of England's football team might soon find AA more appropriate.

To Raymond Illingworth's mind, the missing A must be "abuse" because there has been enough of that flung around by all sides over the crass timing of his book detailing his time as chairman of selectors. As Lloyd seeks to rebuild spirits as England's new coach, the mindless public bickering by men old enough to know better has done him a great disservice.

After England's Texaco Trophy victory at The Oval, Lloyd anticipated a celebratory press conference and was ready to sing the praises of "Icky, Thorpey and Louie". Instead, a radio reporter enquired about "the Illingworth business". "I don't know what you're talking about," said Lloyd, sounding perplexed.

"It wasn't in the Sporting Life this morning." If his players remain equally dismissive, one imagines that he will not be unhappy. After England's World Cup failure, Michael Atherton might have proposed the missing word as "abyss" on the grounds that he was starting into one. No longer. Lloyd's receptive presence, plus a purposeful victory in the Texaco series, has filled Atherton with a brightness not seen since the early months of his captaincy.

It must be concluded, therefore, that the word Lloyd was striving for was "apple" — not one which crops up regularly, it has to be admitted, in the field of sporting psychology, but one that clearly

arises from his recent involvement as a narrator on a Channel 4 series about fruit. Lloyd's knowledge of fruit is as limited as the average person, but the producers found his Accrington accent irresistible, so once he was convinced it was not a wind-up from a Test Match Special colleague, he read out the script, sprinkled a few one-liners here and there, and collected his fee. Now little old ladies keep asking him what to do with their gooseberries.

As far as English cricket is concerned, Lloyd has no intention of playing gooseberry. A temporary contract due to end at the end of the summer hardly represents an unreserved welcome, but he has taken up his responsibilities with gusto. If his favourable impressions persist throughout the summer, an extended contract will be his.

Lloyd's enthusiasm is remarkable — the knowledge he has garnered over the years has not dampened the impression that every day is a novelty — and he expects the same from players and public. As drums and musical instruments are habitually banned from English Test matches on the implausible grounds that they are a safety hazard, and as The Barney Army, the most boisterous of England's fans, are often viewed with disdain, his call for more manifest support might ruffle a few feathers.

"The Texaco matches made it plain that India — and no doubt Pakistan later in the summer — are going to have terrific support," he said. "It would be nice if England could receive the same positive encouragement. I don't think English spectators would know what to do with a drum and a whistle, but when

we play well I don't want them to be so reserved. "That English reserve even spreads to some of the players. I had to push some of them out onto the balcony during the Texacos to receive the applause. I said: 'Go on, milk it, you deserve it'."

Lloyd's unkind fate, if things go badly, will be depicted as little more than a drum banger, a playful figure once given to travelling around Australia wearing a Stan Laurel mask, and planting joke-shop dog dirt in airport lounges. Understandably, he prickles at such a misleading image; he goes much deeper than that.

"Communication and motivation is a big part of coaching," he said. "The advanced coaching courses ask you how you would deal with 20 screaming kids. Not that coaching, England is quite like that."

If Lloyd is far from just the comic to Atherton's straight man (he rejects any suggestion that they are opposites), their affinity is crucial to England's peace of mind this summer. Illingworth and Atherton have been invariably presented as at loggerheads, even on subjects about which they are in agreement. Lloyd, as a fellow Lancastrian, and preferring democracy to Illingworth's autocracy, is more obviously in alliance.

"I think Atherton and me work happily together. He doesn't like defeat and he has had to carry a lot of responsibility from a young age. He is coming to his peak as a world-class batsman and we don't want him to become stale or sidetracked. It's down to me to take some of the burdens of daily organisation away from him.

A lot of conversations involving Illingworth and Atherton begin with a conclusion. They both like to state facts. There's not always much room for debate after that. I prefer to begin with a question and encourage people to work things out for themselves.

Lloyd's receptiveness to sporting psychology is a new departure for English cricket, where positive thinking traditionally got no further than always buckling on the left pad first. He was encouraged to attend management training courses while coach at Old Trafford, and he is eager to explore how sports coaches put such thinking into practice.

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## Guardian Crossword No 20,670

Set by Hendra

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

- Across**
- Country girl's reading (7)
  - Risk large where the choir sits? (7)
  - Lady-love thrown over by cowboy (5)
  - Be bombastic about trade reform that has a slowing effect (8)
  - One acts in cell division, or comes home endlessly reformed (10)
  - Carrying cargo not left in port (4)
  - Their grandfathers are heard in the tower (4-7)
  - Top-of-the-table men put under pressure going for the cup (11)
  - Animal with combed wool on its back (4)
  - Express lorry approaching bend, behind time (10)
- Down**
- Versailles has one instead, we hear (5)
  - Alternative holiday-centre (6)
  - Means of getting about after a heavy fall? (10)
  - Capers in long-boats, once (5)
  - Spitfire made from logs lashed together (9)
  - Blithe Spirit not to open? (4)
  - Thriller-writer whose characters are snuffed out? (8)
  - Broken utensil, tin-opener, of Orpheus? (8)

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,669**

13 US gunman is unexpectedly retiring (10)  
15 Second-class envelope for small letters? (5-4)  
16 Brick of law-breaker in onset (8)  
17 Hold a brief for a barrister? (8)  
19 Just left? How deplorable! (6)  
20 Staffordshire's second slip is an awesome sort (6)  
23 Loafer, got up in apparel, disguised (5)  
24 Indecent material of musicians in street (4)

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